



2 news

## Hairless good boyo creates dazzling effect

To begin at the beginning. It is afternoon in the great brown, gothic brown, MP bobbing, minister yelling House. And on a green bench at the front, William Hague – Secretary of State for Wales and very good boyo – is alternately answering questions and dreaming of leading his party.

Destined for greatness, Hague seems to radiate light from an opening in his head. This is because his pate, almost entirely devoid of follicular product, is for some reason the shiniest at Westminster. Other hairless heads are mat finished, but Hague's is done in skin-coloured deep-gloss, polished with an expensive chamois by an extremely competent and vigorous chamber-maid. To-



DAVID AARONOVITCH

gether with his agreeable smile, the effect is – literally – dazzling.

A Yorkshireman himself, all around him he hears the lilt of the valleys, as Welshmen (no women), ask and reply to questions. Win Griffiths (Lab, Bridgend) speaks in Chapel language of youngsters being "imbued with moral purpose and direction". The hitsuit,

and virile-looking junior minister, Gwilym Jones (who is as hairy as Hague is smooth) delivers himself of non sequiturs and absurdities, in a beautiful, almost musical voice. "Anyone in any doubt about Labour's lack of priority for the health service, should look at what they've done to education," he says at one point.

But it is Alan Williams (Lab, Carmarthen) who really gets things moving. Mr Williams suffers two disabilities: one – that he has a voice exactly like Gladys Pugh from *Hi-de-hi* – is involuntary. The other – a haircut borrowed from Ringo Starr in 1964, and never subsequently restyled – is of his own making. He raises the case of a Mrs Tat-tersall and her seven children,

who inhabit three rooms in Llanddover. His colleague Alun Rogers (Lab, Rhondda) asks how many are on the housing waiting list in Wales. The minister is indignant – of course they don't have figures for the homeless, and no histrionics will force them to produce any. But he can tell the House, apparently, how many new trees have been planted in the principality. Which leaves the strong impression that the Welsh Office is far more exercised by treelessness than homelessness. "What about tree-houses?" heckles one Labour member.

The shadow Welsh Secretary Ron Davies, with that handsome plausibility which characterises so many Welsh

politicians, is baiting the Tories over law and order, which can "only be restored by spanking schoolchildren and shooting burglars". This is a reference to Welsh Tory, Walter Sweeney (majority 19, Vale of Glamorgan), who is sitting opposite. Mr Sweeney, a large, half-varnished wooden man (who looks like something that I once made in woodwork class, but decided not to take home) apparently believes in instant and summary justice for burglars. If I saw him late at night, canvassing in my driveway, I'd certainly wonder where I'd put that Olympic .22 calibre handgun.

Mr Sweeney is a fan of yet another Welshman, Michael Howard, who is presenting his Bill for banning everyone up for

ever. Harrying him from argument to clause is my final Welshman, Alex Carlile (Liberal Democrat, Montgomery).

Mr Carlile is retiring at the next election, and that is the only sense in which he is retiring; in every other way – with his curling lip and glasses halfway down his nose – he is wonderfully arrogant. For every smooth elision of Howards, Mr Carlile has the answer. If the government had thought sentences too lenient, how many had the Attorney-General appealed to have increased? No reply. Werent some criminals going to have less supervision and shorter sentences as a result of the proposed legislation? Apparently so. We will miss Mr Carlile.

## significant shorts

### Tories reject Brussels ban on leaded fuel

A European Commission proposal to ban leaded petrol from the end of 1999 is to be opposed by the Government.

The Commission strategy for reducing emissions from cars from 2000 was discussed by environment ministers last month, and agreement is expected next June.

But the transport minister, John Bowis, has told MPs that it is "unnecessary and insufficient to impose a ban on leaded petrol as proposed".

While the aim of reducing leaded petrol sales was "laudable", Mr Bowis said in a memorandum for the Commons European Legislation Committee that the British had over the last seven years used preferential taxation to promote leadless petrol sales.

That had contributed to a reduction in airborne lead of over 70 per cent. *Anthony Bowis*

### Drunken plane brawl may cost dear

A father and son who forced a holiday flight from Tenerife to Birmingham to divert after a mid-air brawl could face a bill of thousands of pounds from the airline.

The father, Michael, and Mr Romeo, in his 20s, from Newbury, Berkshire, were expected to leave the Portuguese capital Lisbon last night with his son after being denied a seat on the *Avianca* flight to New York on Friday.

"A company representative described it as a 'minor dispute' and said the passengers had been 'inebriated'."

He added that they would be liable for the amount of cost of the extra fuel that had to be burned off for the plane to land in Lisbon.

The 200 other passengers on the plane were forced to endure a four-hour delay.

### Youth held fake gun to boy's head

A 15-year-old youth has been accused of making threats to kill after an imitation gun was held to the head of a pupil in a school brawl.

The youth, now at college, will appear before Birmingham youth court next month after a fight between three pupils at a school in Acocks Green last week.

He will face charges of making threats to kill and possessing an imitation firearm.

### Dead addict feigned illness

A policeman told an inquest yesterday that he thought a prisoner found dead in a cell had been feigning illness before his death.

PC David Ennis said he believed Leo Patterson, 31, had been trying to evade being interviewed over a shop robbery for which he had been arrested.

Patterson, a heroin addict, was found dead at Denton police station, Greater Manchester, four years ago.

A jury at an earlier inquest said that Patterson, of north London, had been unlawfully killed and that he should have been transferred to a prison hospital. It had heard the cause of death was "uncertain".

But the police overturned the verdict in the High Court, which ordered a new hearing. Patterson's family alleged he was beaten by officers. The inquest is expected to last two weeks.

### Isle of Wight favours poll on self-rule

A majority of residents of the Isle of Wight favour holding a referendum on self-government, according to a Mori poll for the island's county council.

Seventy-three per cent said they would be in favour of the referendum – but most also said they would vote against independence.

Politicians on the island are concerned that the Government is doing nothing to combat high unemployment. They would like to make the island a free port and tax haven to boost investment. *Steve Boggan*

## Mayhew dampens Unionist talks fear

**David McKittrick**  
Ireland Correspondent

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, last night sought to calm Unionist concerns over a conduit for talks which it has opened with Sinn Fein by insisting that the Government was saying nothing in private that it was not already saying in public.

Speculation yesterday centred on the immediate and long-term intentions of the IRA, the implications of any new ceasefire for political talks, and Unionist suspicions that the government might contemplate a deal with the republicans.

In what amounted to key government characterisation of the channel of communication, which involves the SDLP leader John Hume, Sir Patrick said: "If somebody represents to us that a restatement of our policy, in language that is clear and unequivocal would be helpful, then we will obviously want to consider that."

Sir Patrick's comments did not succeed in dispelling distrust within David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party, and were greeted with disbelief by the Rev Ian Paisley. A spokesman for the UUP, Jeffrey Donaldson said: "Given the evidence of the weekend, we would be very suspicious that there is a form of tick-tacking going on between government and Sinn Fein."



A day in the life: Keith from Skipton with his portrait at the '30 Days 30 lives' exhibition by Barry Cawston which opens today for two weeks at the Candid Gallery, Islington, north London. The YMCA commissioned the series to illustrate its work with young adults

## Group 'undermined entire bank system'

**Jason Bennett**  
Crime Correspondent

An elite group of criminals plotted one of the biggest crimes in history and seriously undermined the entire banking system, a court heard yesterday.

The gang, including Kenneth Noe, the man wanted for the M25 road rage murder, joined forces to steal hundreds of millions of pounds from cash point machines in an international swindle, the court was told. But the operation, which involved using corrupt British Telecom employees, was foiled when police caught the gang red handed.

Noe, who is one of Britain's most wanted men and is currently in hiding abroad, was named in court as an important associate of the team of senior underworld figures.

Seven men yesterday admitted conspiracy to steal cash from banks, building societies and financial institutions and

face up to seven years in jail when they are sentenced next month.

Judge Jeffrey Rivlin QC, said: "The conspirators had dreams of realising vast amounts of money possibly running into hundreds of millions of pounds."

The criminals had intended to bribe BT workers to tap into the lines that run between cash dispensers and the main banking computers. Confidential information from customers would have been downloaded using computer equipment, decrypted and used to make thousands of bogus cards. These would then be used to withdraw money from cash points throughout the country.

The court heard that the conspiracy was foiled when a computer expert turned informant, Martin Grant, was recruited by the gang while serving 16 years for attempting to murder his wife and her child.

John Lloyd, 57, Paul Kidd, 36, Graham Moore, 32, Stephen Seton, 65, William Hayward, John Maguire, 36, all from Kent, and Stephen Moore, 41, of Leytonstone, east London.

The police caught the gang when they raided the home of one of the conspirators in July 1995 and found five of the men along with computers ready to encode tens of thousands of cards.

Ann Cunnaw QC, for the prosecution at Southwark Crown Court, said: "Had the conspiracy succeeded, the banking system of this country would have been put at risk."

John Lloyd, a "close associate" of Noe, was described by the judge as "one of the main organisers" of the scam.

Noe, 49, is the prime suspect for the M25 road-rage killing of Stephen Cameron, 21, who was stabbed to death at Swanley, Kent, in May.

The gang members are John Lloyd, 57, Paul Kidd, 36, Graham Moore, 32, Stephen Seton, 65, William Hayward, John Maguire, 36, all from Kent, and Stephen Moore, 41, of Leytonstone, east London.

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tending waiting lists or other cutbacks £300m extra is needed.

If these assessments prove accurate patients needing non-urgent surgery, such as hip replacements, would see their appointments deferred and the length of time they have to wait for their operations increased.

Community care would also suffer. Hospital trusts would postpone paying their suppliers and put off planned building work.

But health trusts will try to sustain accident and emergency,

cardiac and children's services and ambulances are unlikely to be turned away. "Trusts providing acute care are acutely aware of the political sensitivity of this," said one manager cryptically.

Health trusts cannot end the year in deficit so, failing any increase in their budgets, they would be obliged to make savings in the five months that are left.

Many trusts have already exceeded the budgets for treatment allocated to them for the whole of 1996-97. If they continue to treat patients at current

rates, they run into the red. Though still only partially complete a survey of NHS trusts conducted jointly by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Health Financial Managers' Association has found a third reporting a very difficult situation.

According to health analysts, the root cause of this is the Government's decision to base the £33bn (for England) NHS budget on its estimate of spending rather than what trusts and authorities had spent by March

last. Some experts say the system started the year £180m short of what it needed to maintain last year's care.

After allowing for inflation, the amount of real growth in NHS spending for 1996-97 was minimal, which contradicted the Government's promise of growth.

Professor Chris Ham, of Birmingham University, an expert on health finance, said: "Needs and demand have continued growing, so it is not surprising that hospitals are running into serious problems."

## Old will bear brunt of NHS shortfall

David Walker

Old people, the mentally ill and the disabled are those who will have to bear the brunt of any shortfall in health funding, health managers said yesterday.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts has estimated English trusts need at least £200m less than 1 per cent of total NHS spending, to see them through to the end of the financial year in March. The NHS Trust Federation says that to avoid ex-

penses, they run into the red. Though still only partially complete a survey of NHS trusts conducted jointly by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Health Financial Managers' Association has found a third reporting a very difficult situation.

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last. Some experts say the system started the year £180m short of what it needed to maintain last year's care

cant shorts

Drunken plane brawl may cost dear

A flight attendant was beaten by a passenger who had been drinking heavily. The passenger, identified as 35-year-old Michael Williams, from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was reportedly drunk at the time. He was reportedly drunk at the time. He was reportedly drunk at the time.

A spokesman spokesman said: "A passenger was drunk and was causing a disturbance. The crew member was trying to calm him down, but he became violent." The passenger was reportedly drunk at the time.

Youth held fake gun to boy's head

A 15-year-old youth has been arrested after breaking three children's armatures and hitting one of them in the head with a baseball bat.

The youth, now 16, was reportedly drunk at the time. He was reportedly drunk at the time.

Dead addict 'signed illieg

A 20-year-old man has reportedly signed his own death certificate, which was then used to obtain a prescription for morphine.

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Isle of Wight favours poll on self-rule

# Somewhere my love... Pasternak's passionate letters to his own Lara set to fetch £500,000



Poignant exchange during Stalin purges

Steve Boggan

On screen and off, it was one of the most enduring love affairs of the 20th century. Those who saw the screen version will remember Omar Sharif and Julie Christie, as Dr Zhivago and the enigmatic Lara, in the Russian revolution epic.

But in real life, too, there was love and tragedy. For the character of Lara in Boris Pasternak's Nobel prize-winning masterpiece, *Dr Zhivago*, was based on his mistress, Olga Ivinskaya, the woman he loved until he died, in May, 1960.

The extent of their relationship, through Stalin's purges and despite periods of separation and imprisonment, has now come to light in a series of love letters, manuscripts and poems shortly to go on sale – at an estimated £500,000 – at Christie's in London.

In them, Pasternak confirms that Olga was indeed the Lara of his novel, and he demonstrates his love for her throughout their hardships. The two spent much time apart, he in Tbilisi, she in Leningrad, and his letters, discovered after Olga's death last year, often demonstrated a wish that they could be together.

"Always I love you most deeply, but I'm sure you are neither aware of it, nor see any proof of it, and simply don't notice," he wrote in February, 1959.

"For my part, if I can hope that everything will remain as it was before our recent exchange of words, I would be in a state of perfect bliss. To imagine anything better than this would be inconceivable, beyond my power. I fancy I see something very, very good

Peter Collingridge, a specialist in books, manuscripts and Russian works of art at Christie's described the love letters as "absolutely beautiful."



Life and love: Boris Pasternak's letters to his mistress, Olga Ivinskaya, (above, right) are a moving testimony to their affair and the basis for *Dr Zhivago*, made into a film starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie (left)

Photographs: Glynn Griffiths/Ronald Grant Archive

...as Kipling's pile of rubbish goes on sale

Hazel Cavendish

Previously unpublished letters and manuscripts by Rudyard Kipling, stolen from him by a disgruntled secretary, go on sale today at a Chichester auction house. The papers give a remarkable insight into one of Britain's most popular authors and are expected to prompt international interest.

Overlooked for almost a century, the documents narrowly escaped destruction when they were discovered in a chest of drawers delivered for a country sale in Sussex. When a carrier delivering the chest inquired

"Does anyone want this pile of rubbish from the drawers?" A saleroom porter recognised the two brown paper parcels of documents as a significant collection of a writer's work, containing 40 manuscripts, letters and documents.

They reveal Kipling's dislike for the founder of the Salvation Army, General Booth, his hatred of seeing his work adapted for stage plays and his refusal to allow fox hunting on his land because it might be damaged.

The archive also includes several heavily corrected versions of his story *With The Night Mail*, based on Kipling's sea voyage from the US to England, which appeared in *McClure's Magazine* in November, 1905. The various versions of the story will be invaluable to students of his work in showing Kipling revised and re-revised a story before he allowed it to be printed.

Other scripts include two short stories which appeared in the *Daily Express* of 1900, *A Burgher of the Free State* and *The Way That He Took*, as well as an early version of *The Outsider* with autographed alterations.

His secretary, Miss K.E. Parker, quit and took the papers from Bateman's, Kipling's country home in Burwash, East Sussex, after complaining he and his wife treated her "like a common typist" while expecting "work of quality".

The cash shortfall is thought to be in the region of just £500,000, a drop in the ocean compared with the £2.2m BT

is proposing to pay out to its 2.3 million shareholders in a special dividend next autumn. Ironically, the cash gap is virtually the same as the annual basic salary of BT's chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield.

Staff at the museum have already begun the sad process of giving away exhibits which, though not valuable in money terms, have a priceless place in British industrial history. Thousands of old telephones, switchboards and memorabilia are housed in an unoccupied warehouse near Heathrow Airport. They include 17 vintage GPO vans and crates of bakelite handsets which have never even been catalogued.

The Museum of National

Telephony opened in 1982, the year after British Telecom was split off from the Post Office as the precursor to privatisation.

It takes visitors through Britain's dominant contribution to the history of telephony, from the huge expansion of the 1840s railway boom to digital communications revolution of the 1990s.

BT said last night that a final decision on the museum's future had yet to be taken. "One can never guarantee the everlasting future of anything, but at the moment it's business as usual," a spokesman said.

news

## BT pulls plug on phone museum

**Chris Goddard**  
Business Correspondent

While BT executives toast their £1.3bn takeover deal with the US long distance phone giant MCI, the company is considering pulling the plug on Britain's national telephone museum due to lack of funds.

The BT museum, tucked away beneath a concrete multi-storey car park near Blackfriars Bridge in London, houses countless treasures in the UK's proud technological history from the discovery of the telegraph in the 1830s.

Saved from closure earlier this year it has been passed unwanted, around BT's internal hierarchy and has yet to be allocated further funding for the company's next financial year which begins in April.

Insiders are convinced the museum, which employs six staff, will not survive, despite attracting 23,000 visitors last year. "We just don't fit into the corporate structure any more. They see us as a drain on budgets," said one source.

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# First across the channel

## My hellish journey across Europe, by kidnapped mother

Hugh Pope  
Istanbul

The bizarre three-day ordeal of Hertfordshire secretary Joanne Norris ended yesterday when a Turkish court released both her and the estranged Turkish husband who had kidnapped her and smuggled her across the breadth of Europe.

"I'm not too bad now. My husband did not hurt me. I have absolutely no idea why he did it, but maybe his motive was to get the family back together again. The court released us both after I said I would not be pressing charges," said Ms Norris, 30.

"I even asked him to drive me to the airport so I could go home. He agreed, but I think the police may supervise that," she added, speaking by telephone from a courtroom in the town of Edirne, close to the Turkish border with Bulgaria.

Ms Norris said she was alone when she was seized from her home at Knebworth in Hertfordshire on Friday night. She said her boyfriend was tied up when he stumbled in on the kidnap. She was then put in the back of a caravan or caravanette and smuggled through the Chamal Tunnel on the Shuttle.

"I couldn't be seen or draw



Joanne Norris: 'I am not too bad now, but I have no idea why my husband kidnapped me'

Photograph: PA

She was met on arrival in France by her husband and her eight-year-old son, who lives in Turkey in the legal custody of his father. Ms Norris said she had left her husband in 1994 after eight years of living together in the Turkish resort town of Kemer.

A friend of her husband's was also with them as they then drove non-stop across Europe towards Turkey. Turkish police said her husband was using her old Turkish passport to get her

through international frontiers. "Three times I thought about trying to escape, but it was the middle of the night. I had no money and no passport. What was I supposed to do?" Ms Norris said.

Finally they arrived at the Turkish border post with Bulgaria on Sunday afternoon. Turkish police there had been tipped off about the kidnap by a fax from Interpol. They arrested the group and sent them

to Edirne for questioning.

"The Turkish police were basically sympathetic, but like lots of people in Turkey, they could not understand why I would not get back together with my husband and son. They are very much family orientated here," Ms Norris said. She said that after the court released them her first priority would be to find a seat on a plane back to London, even though that meant leaving her son behind.

"Of course I have hard feelings about all this," Ms Norris said. Turkish law usually awards custody of children to the father, and Ms Norris said that one day she might sue for custody of the child in the Turkish courts.

■ Two men appeared in court yesterday charged with kidnapping Ms Norris from her home. Derek Neale, 34, of Dews Green, Vange, Basildon, Essex, and Derek Lazell, 43, of London Road, Basildon, Essex, are jointly charged with the kidnap and unlawful imprisonment. Neale and Lazell, both ex-servicemen, only spoke once to confirm their names during the five-minute appearance at Stevenage magistrates' court.

Both were remanded in custody for a week, to appear at the same court on 11 November. There was no application for bail. Hertfordshire police said that a third man, aged 27, had been arrested in connection with the kidnapping.

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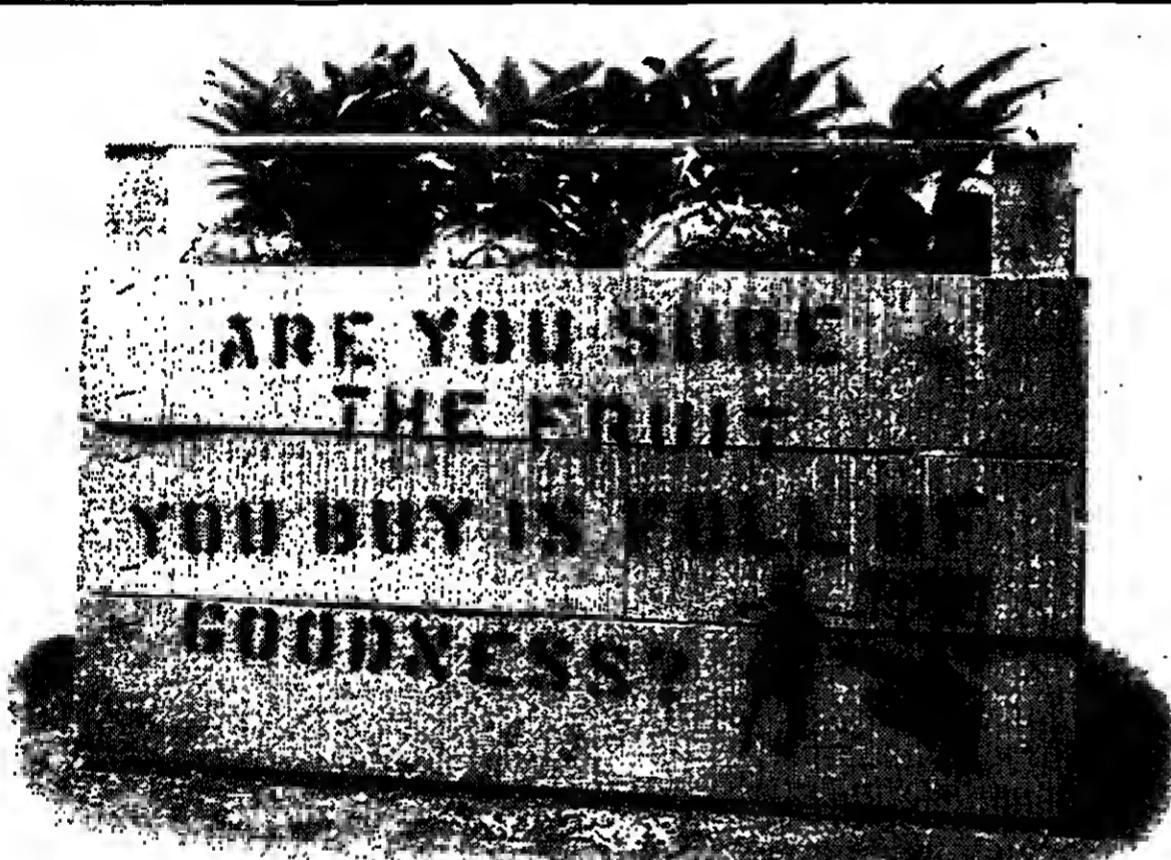
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## news



House music: Members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra giving a recital in the sitting room of Heather Kemp's council home in Hastings, East Sussex, as part of an initiative by the local council to increase awareness of classical music. Photograph: Andrew Hasson



"I saw an accident when a friend fell from the truck taking us to the plantation. The tyre ran over his leg and he was sent to the company dispensary. They amputated his leg. He got no compensation and had to buy a plastic leg with his own money. The man has not worked since the accident." PINEAPPLE PLANTATION WORKER, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Amputation without compensation in the pineapple industry of the Dominican Republic.

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Court told of official's 'Pretty Woman' relationship

## The taxman, the hooker and a love story

Graham Bell

A senior Inland Revenue official became so besotted with an escort agency woman that he lavished thousands of pounds of gifts on her, including designer clothes, expensive watches and Mediterranean holidays, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

Michelle Corrigan, a former model, was giving evidence in the trial of Michael Alcock, an Inland Revenue inspector who is accused of taking bribes.

Miss Corrigan said she was introduced to Mr Alcock, a married man, by Hisham Alwan, an oil dealer with whom she used to have sex for money.

"He asked me if I'd be interested in meeting one of his friends and I said yes. I didn't have a name but was told that he was English," she said. She met Mr Alwan at an apartment in Maida Vale, north-west London, where he gave her a white envelope containing £200. He then introduced her to the tax inspector and left. After the first meeting Mr Alcock contacted Miss Corrigan and arranged to see her again.

She said that at the second meeting Mr Alcock was dropped off at the Maida Vale address in Mr Alwan's Mercedes. John Black, for the prosecution, has told the court that Mr Alcock had previously investigated Mr Alwan's tax affairs. Mr Alcock, 47, Mr Alwan and David Shamoun, a wealthy property developer, deny 17 charges of corruption.

Miss Corrigan said that she met Mr Alcock in Maida Vale about 12 more times and on each occasion Mr Alcock gave her money for sex. "Every time I met him he gave me a cheque or cash, sometimes £130, sometimes £200 but it was usually about £200," she said.

The jury was shown a cheque for £3,000 signed by Mr Alcock in 1990 to benefit Miss Corrigan. She said that the money was to help her to buy a car. "I bought a Peugeot 205GT and Mr Alcock also helped me to pay for the insurance," she said.

At one point in their relationship it was alleged that Mr Alcock used his influence with



Michael Alcock: 'Became besotted'

Miss Corrigan to arrange a woman for Christopher Furze, a junior colleague, and that Miss Corrigan slept with Mr Alcock and Mr Furze slept with the other woman.

However, over a period of months a relationship developed from being that of one between a prostitute and a client to one that could better be described as an affair. This development occurred around the time that Mr Alcock took Miss Corrigan on the first of two holidays in September 1991. The couple first stayed at a luxury villa close to the Marbella beach club in southern Spain. Later they enjoyed another luxury break in Majorca.

The court was told Mr Alcock also paid £1,500 for six months' rent for Miss Corrigan's flat in Portsmouth and cleared a £1,000 credit card debt.

The jury was shown a receipt for £675 for a watch bought by Mr Alcock for Miss Corrigan in December 1991.

Mr Black asked her to describe some of the other gifts she received from the tax inspector, whose salary at the time of his suspension was £45,000. She said: "He bought me clothes, shoes, make-up, coats. They were generally designer outfits costing between £300 and £600. He also bought me a coat for £400 from Harvey Nichols."

Mr Black has claimed that the money to finance these gifts came from "ghosts", wealthy foreign businessmen who had paid Mr Alcock to conclude favourable tax settlements.

Miss Corrigan said that throughout their relationship, which lasted approximately three years, she did not know what Mr Alcock did for a living and believed that he was a financial adviser. Just prior to the end of their affair in 1992 she said Mr Alcock told her he was putting money away for their future. She said: "I started looking at properties in the Portsmouth area, I thought we were in love."

Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the defence, compared Mr Alcock's affair with Miss Corrigan to the plot line of the Hollywood film *Pretty Woman*, and Miss Corrigan agreed with Mr Arlidge when he said that while the couple began in a client and prostitute relationship they quickly fell in love.

Miss Corrigan, a tall slender figure, was wearing a bright green jacket and matching green miniskirt. She said that she did not consider herself a prostitute. She said: "I consider a prostitute as someone hanging around on a street corner and advertising in phone boxes. I was introduced to these people and they would give me money. That is not the same as hanging around on the corner of the street looking for it. I was quite happy to sit there talking to him. I did not want to dive in, take my clothes off and jump on top of him."

The trial continues tomorrow.

Michelle Corrigan: Given many gifts

## Theft gangs target church furniture

Jason Bennetto  
Crime Correspondent

Criminals are targeting churches and stealing valuable furniture, which they sell in antiques markets and shops in Britain and overseas, the police said yesterday.

The warning follows a spate of break-ins at churches in the south-west of England. Previously thieves have tended to concentrate on stealing church ornaments, such as crosses and chalices.

But in the past few weeks furniture has been seized from more than two dozen remote churches in the West Country. In one police division, north Devon, 26 churches have been broken into so far this year.

Some of the items stolen from the churches in north Cornwall and north and mid-Wales may have been sold

abroad, particularly to the United States, the Devon and Cornwall police believe.

Oriental tables and chairs were among many items taken from the churches while they were open to the public.

The recent theft of a 19th-century dark oak chair worth £1,500 taken from St Mary's at Molland, near South Molton, north Devon, was the latest in a series of raids on four parish churches under Rev Bob Shorter.

Thieves had struck five times in three years at his four churches on the edge of Exmoor, taking furniture including a captain's chair, two Victorian side-tables and a Victorian chest of drawers, together worth hundreds of pounds.

"It does rather appear thieves are coming looking for stuff that they presumably have a market for. Churches are

### DAILY POEM

One of the first poems to be written underneath the English Channel or maybe the first.

By Adrian Mitchell

The bones of galleons and their wide-eyed crews,  
Haunted by jelly-fish and purple mussels –  
They're overhead, stuck in historic ooze –  
As our train rumbles through the dark to Brussels.

Coming Back Again

As our train rumbles through the dark from Brussels –  
They're overhead, stuck in historic ooze –  
Haunted by jelly-fish and purple mussels –  
The bones of galleons and their wide-eyed crews.

Adrian Mitchell's *Collected Poems* (Bloodaxe) were published at the end of last month, amongst them this short poem written on the Eurostar just 10 days before publication. Mitchell made his reputation in the late 1960s as performance poet of what used to be referred to as "agitprop". His most nakedly political poems – about nuclear war, Vietnam, prisons and racism – became part of the folklore of the Left, sung and recited at demonstrations and mass rallies. But there has always been a softer, more fantastical side to his output, and his ability to re-experience the world as a child is a rare gift.

"Break-ins can hit small village communities very hard – it's rather like an assault on them."

In Suffolk the police published a crime-prevention booklet for vicars and church wardens following a spate of thefts. Since improvements to security the number of break-ins has fallen dramatically.

Country churches were a favourite target for antique and furniture thieves, said Brian King, of Ecclesiastical Insurance, which covers 95 per cent of Anglican churches.

"Since the 1970s antiques prices have rocketed, therefore churches have been attracted thieves' attention as being a good source," he said. Much of what was taken was sold abroad. Attacks on churches had risen, with insurance payouts rising from £3m in 1989 to £4.5m by 1992. Mr Shorter recommended security marking and photographing valuables; putting fakes on display instead of the originals, or locking them away altogether.

JPM 6.1.50

ant shorts

Drunken plane brawl may cost dear

A flight attendant who got drunk on board from last night's flight from Paris to London has been suspended from flying. The airline identified the flight attendant as Tony Blair, 35, from Walsall, West Midlands. He was expected to fly the Portuguese leg of the flight, which will add to the price of the flight. According to the airline, the flight was delayed by an hour.

A spokesman spoke to the flight attendant and the airline said he had not been suspended. He added that the flight attendant had been suspended for the last flight, but that he had not been suspended for the other two flights. The flight attendants were told to take a one-hour break.

Youth held fake gun to boy's head

A 15-year-old youth was arrested yesterday after threatening to kill his mother at the head of a knife. The boy, who was found to be suffering from depression, was taken into custody and is now being treated at a hospital.

The Labour leader refused to commit his party to "guerrilla tactics", getting a maximum turnout of MPs and forcing votes at all hours, which were used by the Tories under Margaret Thatcher to weaken the then Labour government of James Callaghan before they delivered the final blow in 1979. "We will pursue any tactics that are responsible," Mr Blair said.

"The sooner this government is brought to an end the better because they are not doing anything."

If Mr Blair's commitment to bringing down the Government is to be fulfilled his team will have to do more to harry it in the final session of Parliament. There are fewer late-night sittings and a confidence vote to bring down the Government

would require the support of all the minor parties including the Ulster Unionists.

The draft manifesto, *New Life for Britain*, will form the basis of the platform on which Labour goes into the election but the final manifesto will be drawn up by the leadership when the campaign is launched.

"This massive yes vote gives us the best possible platform in the run-up to the election," the Labour leader said. "I am saying to every member of the party, 'It is time to raise our game once more. It is time to build on our success and step up a gear.'

Mr Blair and John Prescott, the deputy leader, hailed the endorsement of the draft manifesto as a remarkable result. Mr Blair said it meant that the head and the body of the party were marching in step.

There were, however, more than 11,000 members who voted against, though it is not known whether any MPs did so.

The Labour leader and his deputy both took part in a last-minute telephone canvas of supporters and dismissed doubts about the fairness of the ballot as cynicism on the part of the press and critics outside the party.

The results were: Individual party members, yes, 95 per cent (218,023); no, 5 per cent (11,286); turnout, 61 per cent (30,402). Number eligible to vote, 380,688.

Affiliated organisations, including unions: yes, 92.2 per cent; no, 7.8 per cent; turnout, 24.2 per cent. Number eligible to vote, 2,613,690.

#### What party members voted for

Cut class sizes to 30 or under for 5- to 7-year-olds, by using money saved from the assisted places scheme.

Labour says this will cost £77m a year. But children already at private schools on-subsidy places will be allowed to remain, and it would still cost the state sector to take children who would have gone on the £13.9m scheme next year, so the initial savings will be small – although the cost is relatively trivial anyway.

Fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders, by halving the time from arrest to sentencing.

The average wait for young offenders is four-and-a-half months, although it might be different for the persistent sort. This speed-up is supposed to be paid for out of legal aid savings which are unconvincing but, again, the cost is small. Cut NHS waiting lists by treating an extra 100,000 patients, as a first step, by releasing £100m saved from NHS red tape.

On present trends, the NHS can expect to treat 240,000 more patients next year than this year anyway. To raise that to 340,000 is a demanding target, which will cut waiting lists.

The £100m savings are again unlikely: the Government ditched three months ago the requirement for internal invoices in the NHS market – the main "paperchase" which Labour hoped to abolish.

Get 250,000 under-25-year-olds off benefit and into work, by using money from a windfall levy on the privatised utilities.

The only pledge that costs big money, about £1.5bn, but why ask electricity and water consumers and shareholders, including pension funds, to pay for it?

Set tough rules for government spending and borrowing; ensure low inflation; strengthen the economy, so as interest rates are as low as possible.

Meaningless guff.

## Grandees warn Howard against 'race for votes'

**John Rentoul**  
Political Correspondent

Michael Howard was warned by two Conservative former Home Secretaries yesterday that his attempt to outflank Labour on crime was in danger of going too far.

Both Douglas Hurd and, more surprisingly, Kenneth Baker criticised the Crime Bill, the centrepiece of the Government's pre-election legislative programme, at the Commons.

Mr Hurd, who was Home Secretary 1985-89, warned Mr Howard and his Labour opposite number, Jack Straw: "Common sense, and the latest opinion research, suggest there's not really much profit for any of us – in treating any of these matters as a race for votes."

He asked if it was "realistic" to expect judges to give shorter sentences which would actually be served under Mr Howard's plans for "honest sentencing". Mr Hurd told MPs he thought the "expectation would prove fallible", because judges are under such pressure to hand out long sentences – pressure to which the Home Secretary was adding, he said.

Mr Baker, Home Secretary 1990-92, said that the evidence of experience of minimum sentences in the United States was "at best not proven". He ex-

pressed concern at the possibility that second-time rapists might have an incentive to kill their victims.

And he said there was a danger in the Bill that the Prison Service would be diverted from its role in trying to restore criminals to society.

Meanwhile, Mr Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, found himself mocked on both sides of the House of Commons for his failure to oppose the Bill.

The abstention of Labour leaders in last night's vote on the Bill last night marked the death of part of the party's soul, said Brian Sedgemore, the left-wing Labour MP and a barrister.

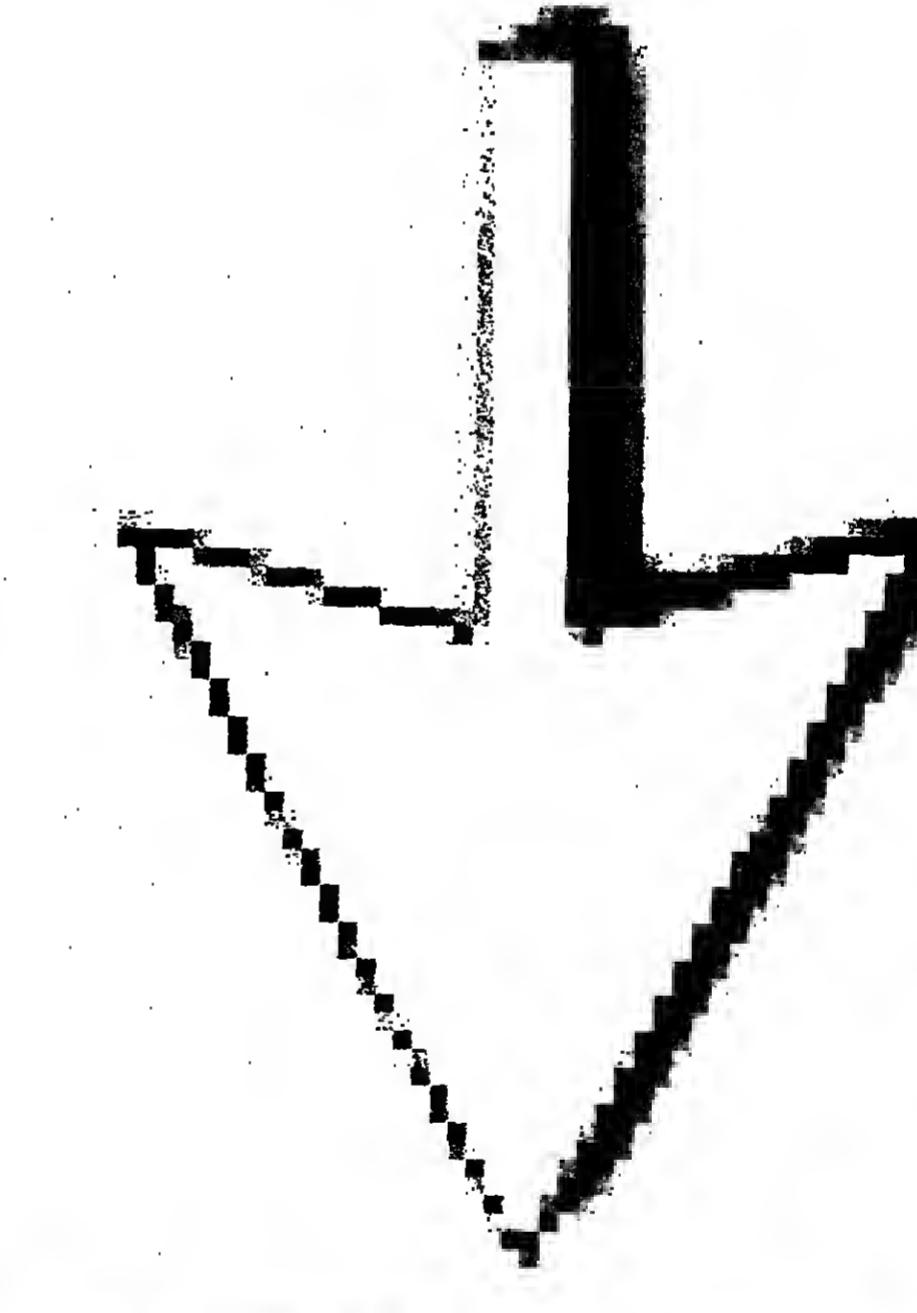
Announcing his intention to vote against the Bill, he said: "This Bill denies many of the basic principles of justice. It is one which will lead to the expenditure of billions of pounds of public money on building and running new prisons whose only discernible purpose is that of vengeance. Led by Jack Straw, Labour's front bench has responded lamentably. This is a shameful night for New Labour, a night when part of its soul died."

He added: "The benches used to contain a liberal tradition on penal matters – we recognise that as part of a consistent tradition. All that has been thrown to the winds."



Thought process: Sir James Goldsmith during an hour-long phone-in on Talk Radio yesterday. He said that his Referendum Party would be ready to fight the general election today if it was called and he emphasised that his family charitable foundation would be ready to give £20m if it proved necessary. So far his costs are £1.5m. Photograph: Andrew Buurma

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HS shorts

## news

Jail escorts free drug dealer after threat of being injected with Aids-infected blood, a new tactic increasingly used by criminals

# Deadly hypodermics become new shotguns

**Alan Murdoch**  
Dublin

The escape from prison at the weekend of a drug dealer whose brother was a notorious gang leader known as The General who was murdered by the IRA in August 1994, escaped from a garda van outside Dublin on Sunday.

A heroin addict, he was serving a four-and-a-half-year sentence for a drugs conviction. He was being moved, handcuffed to a warder, to Cork Prison from Mountjoy in Dublin following a disturbance there on Saturday evening.

The Department of Justice yesterday began an inquiry into

the escape, which occurred when Cahill reportedly held the syringe against the head of one of the prison officers in the van and shouted: "He has a wife and kids, \*\*\*\* it, I will give it to him!"

The unarmed officers released him and he ran into traffic and tried, unsuccessfully, to hijack a car before fleeing into the night.

The inquiry will try to establish how the syringe was taken into the van, and whether Saturday's fracas at Mountjoy was staged to facilitate the transfer.



Lethal, and small: Syringes are hard for warders to detect

A few months ago another prisoner made his escape from a courthouse by using a syringe to threaten gardai, and in April another Dublin criminal, Thomas "Bomber" Clarke, also escaped from a prison van who had rammed it.

Chris Finnegan, national secretary of the Garda Federation, said: "more than 10" gardai had been stabbed with syringes, though none had so far tested

HIV-positive as a result.

A colleague went through a terrible torment for some time [while awaiting the result of an Aids test]. It's more frightening than an actual weapon. They [syringes] have now become the preferred way of doing jump-overs [cash robberies in shops]."

Mr Finnegan estimated the use of syringes in robberies and other crimes had been increasing steadily for five or six years.

The most common victims,

and the experience has led

some north inner-city Dublin shop-owners to close businesses. Other victims included two Italian tourists who were held up by a syringe-wielding thief who broke into their room in a luxury hotel late at night.

Mr Finnegan called for armed gardai in a follow-up car to shadow prison vans in the same way as large cash consignments were escorted. He said it appeared no security lessons had been learned from the earlier Clarke escape.

Liz O'Donnell, justice spokeswoman of the opposition Progressive Democrats, said

there had been 11 escapes from this year and demanded tighter security. She said the justice minister, Nora Owen, should explain how the prisoner got the syringe into the van, when there should have been a search.

A spokesman for Ireland's Prison Officers Association called for pepper gas and mace to be provided to prison escorts and for shackles to be used in transporting dangerous prisoners. Routine searches did not deal with the threat as prisoners had repeatedly concealed syringes inside the body, he said.

## Happiness of the long-distance traveller as the sun goes down on the fly and flop holiday

**Simon Calder** in Istanbul hears that cheaper flights are hitting traditional tourist resorts

British tourists are turning their backs on the beaches, particularly among Mediterranean holiday resorts. Travel agents were told yesterday that 1 million fewer "fly and flop" European beach holidays were sold this summer. Greece, Malta and Cyprus are suffering especially compared with more exotic destinations. And among skiers, France and Austria are being overhauled as the most popular winter sports destinations by Italy.

The Istanbul convention of the Association of British Travel Agents heard that holidaymakers are extending their horizons dramatically. The market research organisation Stats MR says United Kingdom visitors to Mexico have more than trebled over the past year, and bookings for next year are already twice as high again. In contrast, Cyprus lost one in five British holidaymakers last winter and is 11 per cent down on bookings for the coming winter.

Recent violence on the Green Line separating the Republic from the self-styled Turkish Republic of North Cyprus may have contributed to the decline. But Len Mooney of the tour operator Sunworld said the trend towards long-haul travel is responsible: "Cyprus is suffering from cheaper long-haul holidays, particularly in the Caribbean."

Price remains the prime concern of British tourists. The only leading destination to buck the trend of a declining package holiday market this summer was Turkey. It added 15 per cent in visitor numbers, compared with a fall of 24 per cent for Greece. This week, Turkey was revealed to be the cheapest of all 20 OECD countries for tourists, with the cost of holidaymaking just after that of the UK. The local currency is so weak that British visitors can become lira millionaires simply by changing £6.50.

Among skiers, price is also crucial. Bookings for the coming winter show Italy ahead of the traditional destinations, France and Austria. Bulgaria is performing strongly - with nearly double the number of bookings compared with last year - while Switzerland has lost almost half its market share.

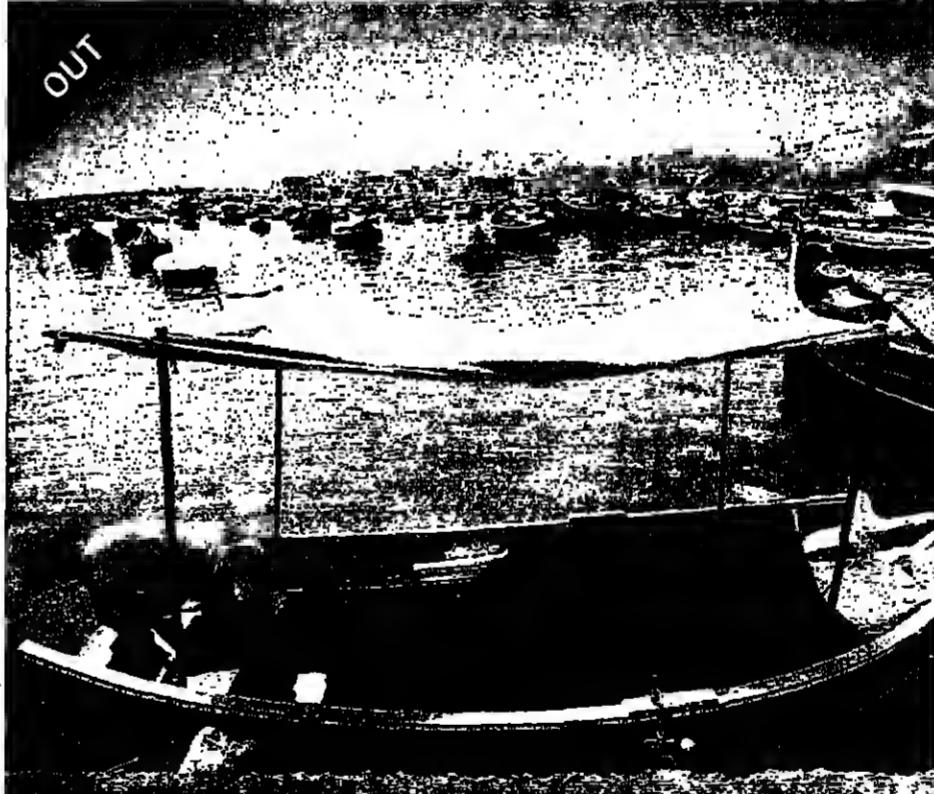
Overall, numbers of winter sports holidays are a quarter lower than at the peak eight years ago, but Kevin Ivic of First Choice said the decline has now reversed: "Snowboarding has helped to bring young people into the market."

Travellers' perceptions of risk have affected some parts of the world significantly. Florida has



Trading places: The table below shows holidays to destinations such as India (above) are rising while those to the Mediterranean are falling. Photographs: John Voss/David Rose

LONG HAUL		SKI		SUMMER SUN	
95/96 season	% change*	95/96 season	% change*	1996 season	% change*
Total	100	24	Canada	5.4	247
USA	51.2	26	USA	5.2	123
Florida	34.3	26	France	24.4	-10
Other USA	17.0	27	Austria	22.4	-15
Mexico	2.2	235	Italy	19.0	37
Caribbean	18.2	20	Andorra	8.1	21
Canada	8.0	14	Switzerland	8.6	-45
E/South Africa	3.9	-12	Bulgaria	5.7	20
India	3.1	42			
*latest year					



not yet recovered from the spate of attacks on tourists three years ago. Southern and Eastern Africa lost one in eight British visitors mostly because of a decline in tourism to Kenya. Conversely, India appears once again to be perceived

as "safe", with an increase of 42 per cent in the past year.

One tour operator warned of the dangers of trying to cash in on the rise of exotic holidays. Roger Heape of British Airways Holidays told: "Don't trash the market - don't do what you

did to the short-haul market."

The travel industry got a taste of its own medicine after the convention closed yesterday. Several delegates turned up at Istanbul airport to find the British Airways flight to Heathrow was overbooked.

**Students denied choice by A-level disputes**

**Judith Judd**  
Education Editor

Universities should wait six weeks before rejecting applicants who want to appeal against their A-level grades, the head of the independent body on exam appeals said yesterday.

At present, universities accept and reject candidates in August, as soon as A-level results are published.

But Dame Elizabeth Anson, chairman of the Independent Appeals Authority for School Examinations, said exam boards had been trying to persuade universities to wait until the end of September before rejecting candidates who had missed their grades but who were appealing. "Even if you appeal as quickly as you can, you still cannot get your place at university because it is all settled," she said.

The authority, which is the final arbiter of exam grade appeals, heard five appeals last year and allowed three of them. Its annual report published yesterday. Two A-level appeals in computing and history were allowed, and one in GCSE history.

The number of appeals against exam grades is growing rapidly but they reach the authority only if students are not satisfied after they have appealed to exam boards.

Authority officials believe it is only a matter of time before a board is sued for damages because a pupil has been denied his or her first choice of university.

Dame Elizabeth said they were still worried about delays by both schools and boards in dealing with complaints, meaning that appeals did not reach the authority until 10 months after the results were published. "The whole process is a marathon that only the most determined schools complete."

This year's report includes details of an appeal from a school which found that its coursework assessments for GCSE business studies had been reduced by nearly 40 per cent. The exam board said the school had been warned previously that it was not assessing coursework correctly. The authority found that the warning had not been clear enough and the appeal was allowed.

The authority may face a shake-up because of the amalgamation of the two bodies in charge of academic and vocational qualifications in the Education Bill which is going through the Commons. At present, it does not hear appeals for vocational exams.

■ Ministers yesterday announced plans to tighten up the grading of vocational A-levels and cut down bureaucracy.

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Student denied choice in A-level disputes

Judith Sudd

# Families have lost £3 a week since the election

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

The average council-house family has lost more than £3 a week in net income since the last election, according to the latest calculations from Whitehall.

The figures, in a Department of Social Security *Abstract of Statistics*, belie Treasury propaganda that the average family is £700 a year better off than the last election. Claim and counter-claim about family prosperity is a key battleground for the election as the Tories try to persuade voters they are significantly better off and should not risk Labour ruining that new-found wealth.

Michael Jack, a Treasury minister, said in a written Commons reply: "Real take-home pay for a one-earner family on average earnings was £292 per week in 1991-92, and is expected to rise to £305 per week in 1996-97."

"The 1996-97 income of a family on average earnings is up £700 a year after the effects of tax and inflation when compared with that of 1991-92."

The Treasury reply could contain a number of flaws: the year 1991-92 does not give an accurate definition of the timing of the last election, and average earnings for 1996-97 can only be "expected" because the year does not end until March.

However, the *Abstract of Statistics* provides actual figures for average earnings in April 1992, at the time of the last election, and last April. It shows a gross increase of £50.10p per week to £390.20 over the four years of John Major's government.

In real terms, after inflation has been taken into account, the increase is £14.08, or £732.16 a year before tax. After tax that increase is certain to be much less. For a one-earner family with two children living in council housing, with an average weekly pay slip of £390.20, net income last April was £253.28 a week - compared with the real-terms figure of £256.49 in April 1992 - after housing costs had been deducted. That official DSS calculation includes average council-housing rent, council tax, income tax, national insurance contributions, and

a full claim for any available benefits. That family was not better off last April than it was at the last election.

On the same basis, a single mother with one child, working on average women's earnings - of £280.70 a week last April - is £4.29 a week worse off, in real terms, after housing costs, than in April 1992. The Government's General Household Survey shows one-fifth of all households live in council or new-town rented housing.

Another 40 per cent of households have mortgages and there is no doubt that many will be considerably better off as a result of mortgage interest rate cuts, which have reduced annual payments on a £25,000 mortgage by about £1,340 a year since the last election. But that bonus has to be offset by the reduction in the rate at which the tax allowances, mortgage interest at source, is paid. Its reduction by the present government from 25 per cent to 15 per cent has cost the average mortgage payer about £500 a year.

The Conservatives possibly prefer to use 1991-92 as their base line for "feel-good" calculations because there was a significant surge in net income between 1991-92 and 1992-93. Labour however uses 1992-93 as its base year, possibly because that more than halves the net increase in living standards, from the Tories' £700 to little more than £380 a year for the average family, after pay rises, taxes and prices have been taken into account.

Labour pointed out yesterday that the average family - with one earner on average earnings and two children - was £2.56 a week worse off last year, when compared with 1992-93, after inflation had been taken into account. A Labour spokesman pointed to the Treasury's own figures, showing that that family's net income, after all taxes and benefits, was £296.78p a week in 1995-96 compared with an equivalent in real terms of £299.34 a week in 1992-93.

On that basis, it would appear the average family was worse off whether they lived in rented council housing or whether they had a mortgage.

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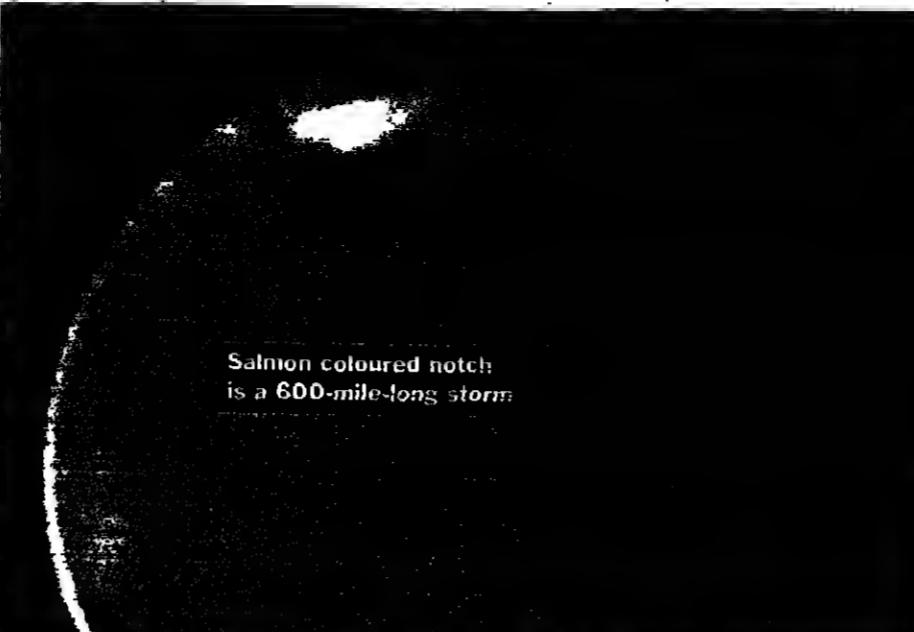
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## If there is life on Mars, they're having a rough time



Salmon coloured notch is a 600-mile-long storm



Storm dissipates through comma-shaped dust cloud

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

If there is life on Mars, as British scientists suggested last week, then it must be used to bad weather. New pictures taken a month apart by the Hubble Space Telescope show

storms churning the planet's red dust near the north polar cap.

The picture on the left, taken in mid-September, shows a salmon-coloured notch in the white north polar cap: a storm 600 miles long.

The bright dust can also be seen over the dark surface surrounding

the cap, where it is caught up in the Martian jet stream and blown east.

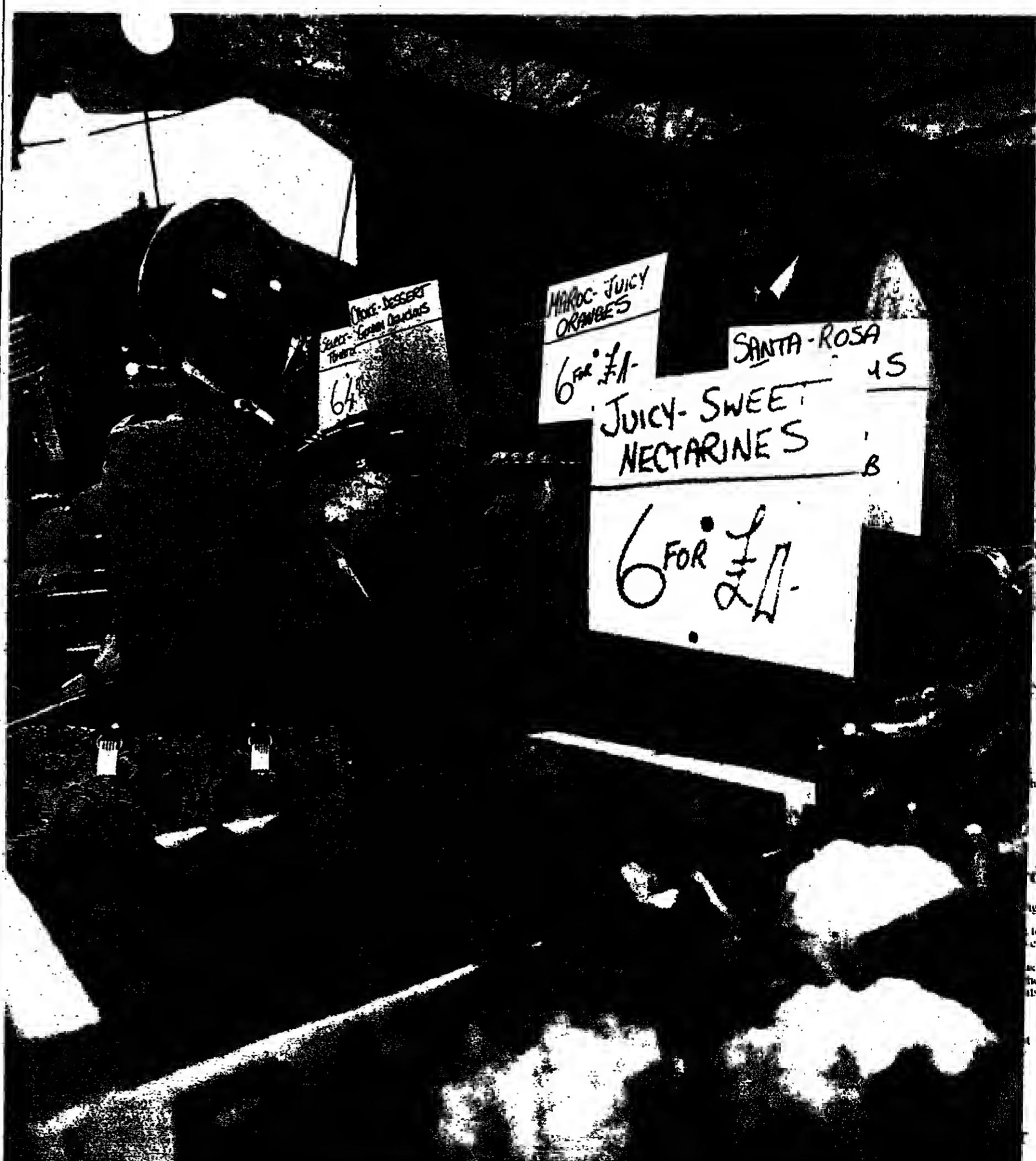
The picture on the right, taken in mid-October, shows that the storm has dissipated, though a comma-shaped cloud of dust can be seen curving across the ice cap. The shape is similar to cold fronts on Earth.

associated with low-pressure systems. But nothing quite like this has been seen on Mars before.

Scientists have thought that life is more likely to be found near the polar regions, which though cooler, have abundant water.

The polar storm is probably

caused by large temperature differences between the polar ice and the dark regions to the south, heated by the springtime sun. The sun also makes the frozen carbon dioxide in the polar cap evaporate. In the second picture, the cap's edge has receded by about 120 miles.



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## international

# Romania finally turns out old guard

**Adrian Bridge**  
Central Europe Correspondent

Almost seven years after toppling communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanians have turned against the former communists who have ruled them since – thereby earning the distinction of being the last country in eastern Europe to do so.

With half the votes counted from Sunday's parliamentary election, the country was yesterday clearly heading for a centre-right government in what will be the first real transfer of power in Romania since Ceausescu fell in 1989.

In the parallel presidential

vote, the former communist incumbent, Ion Iliescu, emerged narrowly ahead, but fared far worse than expected. He now faces a tough battle in a second round run-off vote against his main rival, Emil Constantinescu, later this month.

As the scale of the former communists' defeat in the parliamentary poll became clear, there was jubilation at the headquarters of Mr Constantinescu's Democratic Convention (CDR), the party now set to lead a governing coalition.

"After seven years of pseudo-democracy and neo-communist rule, the people realised that a total change was needed," declared Lucian Hossu, a leading member of the CDR.

"This is a natural reaction because all the promises turned out to be lies and people's lives became worse and worse."

According to the partial results, the CDR was poised to get some 30 per cent of the vote, well ahead of the 22 per cent registered by Mr Iliescu's Party of Social Democracy (PDSR).

As such, it looked to be well placed to form a government with the third placed centre-right Social Democratic Union headed by the pro-reform former Prime Minister Petre Roman.



People power: Emil Constantinescu, whose Democratic Convention is set to lead a governing coalition in Romania, in the mood to celebrate

Photograph: AFP



Ion Iliescu: faces tough battle in second round

## Wind of change blows through the east

**Tony Barber** sees a resurgence of democracy throughout the region

resides in Bulgaria, voters sent a clear signal that they did not want the ex-Communists to dominate national politics.

Romania's parliamentary election was the first since the December 1989 revolution to result in a defeat for the remodelled Communists who assumed power after the execution of the Ceausescus. As expected, the centrist opposition Democratic Convention forms the core of the next government. It will mark a rare example in 20th-century Romanian history of power being freely and fairly transferred from a ruling party to its rivals.

In those terms, Lithuania's post-Communist progress is

more advanced than that of most countries in the region. Power swung after 1992 elections.

Peaceful political change achieved by the voters' will is becoming the norm in region

mocratic Labour Party (DLP), but last month two conservative parties inflicted electoral defeat to the DLP.

In 1993 and 1994, ex-Communists returned to power after elections in Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria, and Poland last year elected Aleksander Kwasniewski, an ex-Communist, as president. Yet the Polish and Hungarian ex-Communists are keen economic reformers, committed to democracy, and determined to join Nato and the European Union.

The left-of-centre tide appeared to be flowing strongly last June, when Czech voters tilted to the opposition Social Democrats and deprived Vaclav Klaus's centre-right coalition government of its majority. At the time, some commentators regarded the result as the vot-

ers' revenge against Mr Klaus's strict free-market doctrines.

Yet the Czech Prime Minister's policies were often more gradualist than his Thatcherite rhetoric implied. This may explain why it took Czechs until this year to register complaints at the market reforms of the post-Communist age, whereas

in Poland, where truly radical changes were thrust on the nation in January 1990, the reaction occurred as early as 1993. In another election last weekend, Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, and his leftist coalition appeared to coast to victory despite the best efforts of a newly united opposition. Mr Milosevic was helped by coverage on state television that praised him as a Balkan peacemaker and played down the opposition's campaign messages.

This year's most flawed elections took place last May in Albania and last September in Bosnia. Albania's ex-Communists, who had won power in 1991 and lost it one year later, boycotted the vote in May after accusing President, Sali Berisha's centre-right Democratic Party of trying to fix the result.

The ex-Communists also complained about voting abuses in local elections last month, but international observers gave a much more favourable reaction than in May. The Bosnian elections were plagued by irregularities, including preliminary results that showed a turn-out of more than 100 per cent, but were certified as fair by an international community desperate not to jeopardise the Dayton peace deal.

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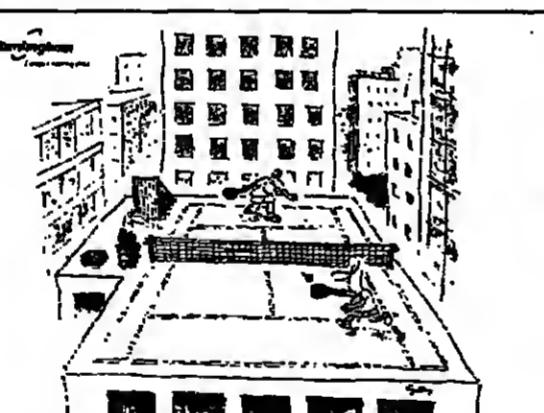
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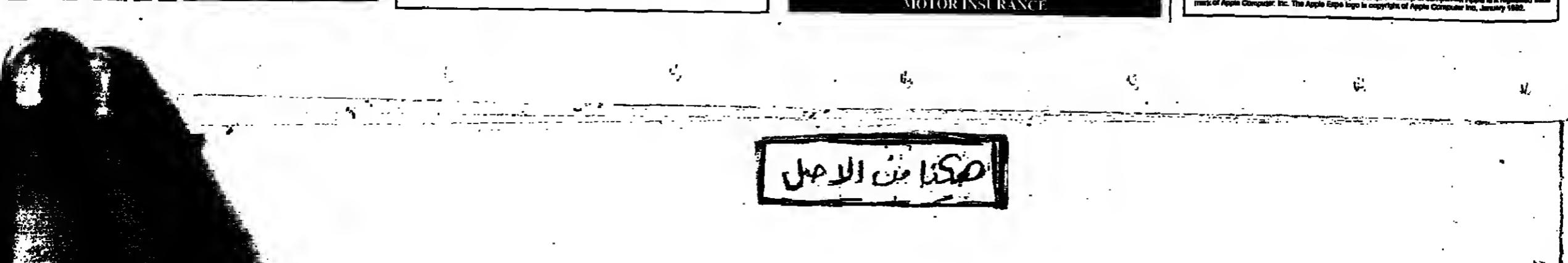
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# 'I am here until they carry me out,' said the American hotelier fighting the Moscow mafia. This week, they did

Paul Tatum foresaw his death. Last year, just before his luxurious hotel in Moscow was in play host to President Clinton, he produced a publicity booklet detailing a fierce dispute with his business partners. Across the front, in red Cyrillic letters, he printed: "Certificate of Death".

He knew that creating a stir as an American entrepreneur in a *mafia-plagued* and violent city was risky. But he carried on wrangling over the Radisson-Slavianskaya hotel, the fashionable haunt of foreign dignitaries and Russian busi-

**Phil Reeves** on the murder of an entrepreneur

nessmen, and the Moscow headquarters of the KGB.

Until this week, Tatum had few hundred yards from the riverside hotel, detectives were examining a blood-spattered area where Mr Tatum was shot in the back 11 times by a man with a Kalashnikov.

The 41-year-old businessman, a staunch Republican from Oklahoma City, once described post-Communist Russia as an "entrepreneur's heaven".

The establishment – the first American-led joint venture hotel in the Soviet Union – opened with great fanfare in July 1991, after H R Haldeman, Richard Nixon's chief-of-staff, helped him attract the support of the Radisson hotel chain.

At the time, it was cited by many, including George Bush, as a shining example of the brave new world of US-Russian commercial cooperation. It turned out to be the opposite.

who came to do business in the new Russia

back in, using an electric drill. When he was again evicted, he came back, this time to barricade himself inside his hotel room, with 25 armed guards. He carried on fighting, even after one of them was stabbed in a laboratory. Acknowledging that his life was at risk, he told *The Independent*: "I am here until they carry me out."

The details of the dispute are complex, but their roots lie in an battle for control over the

venture involving the Radisson, Mr Tatum, and the city of Moscow. Radisson Hotels yesterday issued a statement calling Mr Tatum a "courageous entrepreneur", while noting that Radisson was in the process of dissolving its partnership with him through the US and Russian courts.

Russian businesses are gunned down almost daily but the shooting of foreigners is rare. The American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow said the killing marked a watershed. "This message is going to be picked up in the boardrooms back in the States," it added.



A fighter: Paul Tatum made his own 'death certificate'

## mans set ghts on military lliance



Fire power: A Taliban gunner recoils as he is engulfed by his gun's blast during fighting yesterday outside the Afghan capital, Kabul. The Islamic group was attacking the positions of General Masoud and General Dostum, who are holding high ground north of the capital

Photograph: Santiago Lyon/AP

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## international

# Decline and fall of the men who tyrannised Africa

### Grisly ex-dictator dies aged 75

James Roberts

Jean-Bedel Bokassa, who in the 1970s did as much for Africa's image in the world as Hitler did for Germany's, has died of a heart attack, aged 75. Yesterday thousands of mourners gathered outside the main hospital in the Central African Republic capital of Bangui to pay their last respects to a man who not only slaughtered his opponents but ate them too.

Raised by French missionaries after his father was murdered and his mother committed suicide, the cannibal emperor was something of a Francophile. He joined the French army at 18, was decorated for bravery, and chose Napoleon Bonaparte as a role model.

He seized power in 1966. In the 1970s Bokassa embarrassed the then French president, Giscard d'Estaing, by saying he had given him diamonds. Giscard said he sold the diamonds and gave the proceeds to charity but the affair tainted his image at home and possibly contributed to his defeat in the presidential election of 1981.

Bokassa lived in exile in France and Ivory Coast after his overthrow but returned in 1986 and was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted and he was released in September 1993.

*Obituary, page 16*



### Mobutu leaves Swiss hide-out

Mary Dejevsky  
Paris

The Zairean dictator, General Mobutu Sese Seko, pictured left, arrived in Nice yesterday after hours of speculation about whether he would leave Switzerland, where he has been recovering from an operation, and if he did, whether he would be allowed into France.

Although Mr Mobutu, who is 66, owns a villa on the Riviera near Monaco and a flat in Paris, he has, in effect, been persona non grata in France since 1994, though there have been clues this year that he has mended his relationship with President Chirac.

He was said to have looked tired when he left his hotel for Geneva airport. Hotel staff made a point of saying that he settled the bill before he left.

The Zairean leader, who is 66 and has been in power for 31 years, had been in Switzerland since August, where he was being treated for cancer of the prostate.

He had been operated on at the Lausanne University hospital but it is believed that he has stayed on in Switzerland because it was diplomatically convenient. If he returns to Zaire he faces severe difficulties in restoring order to the country.

## French seeking summit on Zaire

Mary Dejevsky  
Paris

In its first official response to the crisis in central Africa, France yesterday proposed an emergency international conference to discuss reinforcement of security "north and south of Kivu" in eastern Zaire.

The Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, said France wanted all its European and African "partners" to be represented, and the US and Canada. Any operation agreed would entail the dispatch of troops.

The proposal appeared to be a response to pressure from groups in France, including charities like Médecins sans Frontières, that Paris should not stand by as a region closely associated with French influence descended into chaos.

Mr de Charette made clear that in its urgency and the specific nature of the agenda, the meeting superseded, but did not replace, the conference on the region proposed last week by President Jacques Chirac.

But it also suggested an effort by France not to repeat past errors. Insistence that as many countries as possible should take part suggested concern that it should not seem to be acting unilaterally or trying to protect its own interests in a region where Francophone and Anglophone interests have long been in competition.

Since the crisis escalated last week, France has been cautious in its official statements. Partly, it may have been trying to lay the blame on the mixed diplomatic reaction to Mr Chirac's recent outbursts in Israel. Mostly, however, French reticence is explained by its experience two years ago and the shadow of Operation Turquoise.

This was a military and aid operation, launched under French auspices from Zaire, to support Hutu rebels in Rwanda — and pre-empt a return to power by the more Anglophone-inclined Tutsis.

Widely seen as having precipitated the mass killing of Tutsis and set off the refugee crisis which now threatens to explode, it earned France international opprobrium.

This time, France has been distinguished by reluctance to do or say anything until someone else has given a lead, and by its determination that any action should be organised and conducted with others.

Media comment has referred in broad-beating fashion to the events of two years ago as a foreign-policy error that did lasting damage.

And when the death of Jean-Bedel Bokassa, former ruler of the Central African Republic, was announced this morning, it was this discredited relic of French Africa policy, and not the emergency on the Rwanda-Zaire border, that led national news bulletins.

France's decision to involve the US and Canada also suggests a desire to buy the hatches with Washington over Africa policy. Last month France and the US engaged in sniping during



Hervé de Charette: Wants US involvement at talks

The focus on this region of Zaire, where the border has been breached, also implies France is keen to prevent any redrawing of the frontier — a solution favoured by some in Rwanda — and so to defend not only Zaire's territorial integrity but also the dignity of its current (and absent) leader, President Mobutu Sese Seko. Until yesterday he was variously reported to be living it up at Lausanne nightspots or to be at death's door from prostate cancer that had spread.

Mr Mobutu, *persona non grata* in France since the massacres in Rwanda two years ago, made a "private" visit to Paris in April and met Mr Chirac. His arrival late yesterday on the Côte d'Azur, where he has a villa, came amid concern about the effect of his lengthy absence on the stability of Zaire but it also suggested that some deal had been done with France, although there was no hint of what it might be.

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# Conjuring tricks and pre-election treats

**I**t seems such a straightforward political choice: money for tax cuts or for an underfunded NHS. With hospital trusts likely to go £300m into the red this year, the clamour for more health spending has begun. But Ken Clarke is resisting, insisting that spending must be squeezed – presumably to pay for pre-election tax cuts instead.

To be true to historical form, Labour should now be leaping up and down demanding more spending on the health service. The choice in the election would then be clear: vote Labour for higher taxes, doctors, nurses and hospital beds; vote Conservative for money in your pocket.

But it isn't as simple as that. For a start, Labour is not playing ball. There is indeed an immediate choice to be made between £300m to make up the hospitals' shortfall, and £300m towards cutting inheritance tax (for example). But proper health care *versus* tax cuts is not the most important trade-off – either in the Budget, the general election, or the next five years. Nor is there a long-term crisis in health spending. Contrary to expectations, the health service has not been seriously squeezed during 17 years of Conservative government. Today we spend a higher proportion of our national income on health than we did in 1979.

And there is no good reason why health's share of the national cake should be rising any faster. We are a healthy nation. If, as we get richer, we want to spend more as individuals on our health then we should put the money into healthy food and exercise – a far more cost-effective way of improving health than shortening waiting lists.

This year a specific problem has emerged. The health budget hardly increased compared to the increases in previous years. Yet demands on hospitals continue to rise, with the growing elderly population and an unexplained increase in accident and emergency attendance. No wonder then that the hospitals are in trouble. The Government would be wrong to use tax cuts as a reason to avoid bailing them out. But £300m isn't going to bust the bank. It makes up less than one per cent of spending on the NHS, and is nothing in comparison with the billions needed for significant tax cuts.

If Kenneth Clarke is planning a substantial Budget giveaway – cutting the basic rate to 20p for example – then the hospital trust shortfall will be small change in comparison. If he can find that kind of cut in spending somewhere else (or that level of fiddle fiddling) then there seems little reason why he shouldn't fit in another pre-

election health spending bribe as well.

The more serious risk is that the Government will be so determined to produce substantial tax cuts that it will deny resources to other areas that badly need it. Education, rather than health care, is the area that really requires more investment over the next decade, whether we pay for it publicly or privately. Improving the quality of schooling, giving children with difficulties the attention they need, delivering books and computers to the classroom, and recruiting and motivating top quality teachers

all costs money. The Liberal Democrats make a plausible case when they argue that taxes should actually go up to pay for better education. Whatever happens, taxes certainly should not be cut when the extra cash can go on education instead.

Nor should the Government pretend that tax cuts can be paid for without any painful spending cuts tomorrow. When you have a £300m budget to play with, a few conjuring tricks here and there are quite sufficient to hamboozle everyone for a few months. Burying a funding shortfall somewhere in the public sector

pay hill is one popular tactic; so is slashing capital spending. But those games cannot be played for long.

It would be dishonest for the Government to promise huge tax cuts when the nation cannot really afford it. If Kenneth Clarke announces in his Budget next month that the basic rate is going to be cut to 20p, then the next government, whatever its political hue, will have to find a way of raising taxes again or cutting spending to make ends meet – just as it did after the 1992 election. There seem to be hints around in the political back-alleys which suggest the Tories may be about to pull the same deception they pulled on voters in 1992: portraying themselves as the party of tax cuts in contrast to Labour tax rises, when in fact they know that the cuts must be paid for by someone, somehow, somewhere.

Labour – in its determination to make sure the Conservatives can't repeat the trick – risks its own dishonesty. Eager not to be portrayed as the high-spend, high-tax party, it risks endorsing the idea that tax cuts are painless. Reducing tax for the poorly paid is an admirable aim, not least because it could encourage employment. But in the short term tax cuts at the bottom end will need to be paid for by tax increases at the top, or by identified cuts in public spending.

As our nation gets richer, and our economy grows, there is more money for governments to play with. But there are new demands, too. Tiring and spending decisions, especially in the short term, are trade-offs. Voters are often wiser than politicians think: they will not forget that they were treated, then tricked, last time around.

## Travels with my prejudices

British tourists are ranging further, says the Association of British Travel Agents. "Exotic" destinations (like Mexico? exotic?) are in. It would be gratifying if this signalled a revival in the spirit of adventure and exploration. In fact it is about simple pricing: skiing in North America has become a lot cheaper than Switzerland; the Caribbean now competes with Cyprus.

Will greater distance broaden the nation's horizons? Not likely. It's hard to argue that package travel broadens the mind. After all, we haven't become conspicuously more European through taking holidays in France and Spain. People returned from the Med with their skin browned, their hair paler, and their prejudices very firmly intact.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The best way to handle a wife-beater

Sir: The selection of Paul Gascoigne for the England team and the controversy it has aroused crystallises some of the most pressing questions facing our society ("England's women expect a wife-beater to stay in decent obscurity", 2 November).

Glen Hoddle's decision to give Gazza another chance – a chance to establish a good character in conjunction with his accepting counselling to help him overcome his problems – is most refreshing and much-needed injection of compassion and understanding into public life. And it is still one that refuses to condemn the player's violent behaviour off the field.

Hoddle has made a point of saying that his hopes of inclusion of Gazza will help the man overcome his problems. As such, his attitude contrasts sharply with the many who can see no further than making outraged condemnations.

Some of Glen Hoddle's critics have warned of the danger of Gazza's becoming a role model and thus reinforcing the behaviour of men who beat women. Perhaps, though, he might become a role model for those whose behaviour is unacceptable, simply excluding these children from school will not bring them the understanding and expert help they undoubtedly need.

TERESA DELTON  
Norwich

Sir: Who says athletes or any other public figures are, or should be, role models? Youths may want to play like Gazza, but how many really want to be like him in every respect?

Talk of role models encourages the adoration of athletes, which is dangerous, as Jesse Jackson frequently points out to black ghetto children in America, where sports, especially, are seen as a way to escape poverty. Only a pitiful handful succeed.

A loving parent, a dedicated teacher or an interested neighbour are better role models than all the heroes and heroines who ever lived.

RONALD OGDENS  
Tunbridge Wells

Sir: Soccer is something I don't understand, but will it be worth protesting should there be any future printing of books by HG Wells, not to mention the staging of plays by Dylan Thomas, as it is alleged they too were horrid to their wives? Perhaps we should also stay away from any further productions of Shakespeare's Henry VIII.

ROBERT VINCENT  
*Andover, Hampshire*

### Media studies maligned

Sir: The condemnation of media studies courses as a whole in Lucy Hodges' article ("The trendy travesty", 31 October) is reminiscent of the condemnation of the rise of English and Modern History by Oxbridge classicists of a hundred years ago – fashionable, a passing phase, a poor training of



the mind, etc. It is another manifestation of what amounts to a campaign of the media against the study of our own institutions and products and against the acquisition of skills that seemingly are unworthy of being taught and are in little demand.

This knee-jerk reaction to rapidly growing subject areas in higher education involves assumptions about irrelevance and soft options without really asking questions about why subjects grow.

Such growth can have nothing, apparently, to do with the development of new and challenging ideas which seem highly relevant to modern post-industrial societies, and nothing to do with the expansion of media-related job opportunities in those societies.

Universities are accused of "cashing in" on the trend, and there seems no recognition of the alternative view that they are responding to demand from applicants.

None of us in the field can be complacent about the failure of some graduates to get jobs, and media studies has no doubt its dottier fringe and some less than excellent courses, but Ms Hodges seems to think it would be better if unemployed media graduates had joined the very much larger numbers of unemployed graduates of engineering, sociology and business studies.

DAVID FADDY  
*Head of School of Communication  
University of Westminster  
Harrow, Middlesex*

Sir: How disappointing that *The Independent* should jump on the bandwagon of attacking "trendy" university degrees such as Media Studies, especially when American Schools of Journalism have been

pouring out eminent journalists for decades. Will we never learn?

You have failed to realise the changing nature of media courses over the last 10 years. Here at Huddersfield, as in many universities, our media teaching is predominantly practical, aimed at equipping students with multi-skills for the new bi-media era and with a high investment in technology.

STEPHEN KELLY  
*Teaching Fellow in Media  
University of Huddersfield*

Sir: Six unsupported generalisations in two sentences (leading article, 31 October). Not to worry, *Independent*, such sloppy writing would keep you safe from a place on our degree course.

DR MAIRE M DAVIES  
*Director of Studies, B.I. Media & Cultural Studies  
London College of Printing  
London EC1*

Windfall unity

Sir: Your Business Comment (1 November) announces "Blair and Brown fall out over windfall gains". In fact Blair, Brown and the whole Labour Party are united in their commitment to a one-off windfall levy on the excess profits of the privatised monopoly utilities which will pay, over the course of a Parliament, for our carefully costed new deal for young people and the long-term unemployed.

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL  
*Press Secretary Tony Blair  
London SW1*

### British fog over Ireland's past

Sir: Ronan Bennett's article on the film *Michael Collins* states that "audiences in the US are sadly unable to follow the British lead of dispassionate inquiry and analysis when it comes to Ireland".

After years of debate with Irish, British and other European nationals, it is my view that in general the British are anything but capable of dispassionate inquiry and analysis when it comes to Ireland.

Unfortunately, the traditional teaching of history in the UK has left us with a poor sense of our general involvement in the affairs of other countries as a colonial power. Were the British generally more capable of dispassionate inquiry and analysis, one could only hope that the situation in Northern Ireland could have been resolved sooner.

MICHAEL D SMITH  
*London SE13*

under the water tap. There was, of course, an explosion. I walked up to the culprit and slapped him on the cheek. I had no further trouble with that difficult class. I am still convinced that I did the right thing.

BARBARA DAINTON  
*(Lady Dainton)  
Oxford*

Sir: Do David Shaw thinks that respect for teachers is earned merely by the wearing of a smart "uniform" (report, 4 November).

Gillian Shepherd wants schools to indoctrinate children to an authoritarian "moral" agenda. Why don't we solve the problems of education by sending all our children to a Chinese prison?

TOM HARDY  
*Tolworth Girls' School  
Surbiton, Surrey*

### Give us health figures straight

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan ("Is the NHS safe under Mr Blair's team?", 30 October) is right to suggest that Labour is as short as ever on fresh ideas. But journalists and other commentators repeatedly let the politicians off two hooks.

Firstly, they conspire in using a monetary language which the politicians are only too happy to use to confuse the public: continual reference to the percentage of GDP spent on the NHS.

It is clearer and more relevant to ask whether total health care expenditure per person per year in the UK (1993 figures from OECD health data) at £728 is about right, too much or too little compared with Germany (£1,447), France (£1,335), Canada (£1,218), Portugal (£395) and Greece (£252).

However, that is not the only hook. Your journalists and correspondents (Stephen Pollard, letter, 3 November) too readily let the politicians off with phrases such as "... to increase funding of the NHS ... will simply not be possible beyond what John Major has already pledged since it will require tax increases". That neatly constrains and curtails the argument.

Let us open the debate in relation to how the tax cake is divided up. Should there be a bigger slice to the NHS and less to defence? That is the debate we should be having – and it would be less confusing if your commentators used language understood by all of us.

Dr G DE LACEY  
*Consultant Radiologist, Northwick Park Hospital  
Harrow, Middlesex*

### Good old Richard

Sir: Why should the statue of Richard I, a valiant Crusader King who personified the hopes of medieval Christianity by fighting to reclaim the Holy Land, be removed from Westminster (letter, 4 November)? What is incongruous is the statue of Oliver Cromwell, who forcibly dissolved four parliaments, on one occasion commanding a soldier to remove "that fool's bauble" the Speaker's mace. He established a dictatorial personal rule through a big standing army and a network of spies.

JENNIFER MILLER  
*London SW15*

### Rats to Hanover

Sir: Shame on my native town, Hamburg, for abandoning its Hanseatic spirit and the Beatles' muse ("Four decades on", 2 November). But lost your arts news editor, David Lister, was the pompous corporation plus mayor of Hamelin (Hämelin) who had to suffer the Pied Piper's just wrath – and not only according to Robert Browning.

INGEROSE SAYER-HEYD  
*Oxford*

### Lock-free zone

Sir: Further to your correspondence on the crimeless 1950s, the Golden Age extended well into the 1960s. As a student at Exeter University in 1968, I remember the opening of a new women's hall of residence which had no locks on any of its 80 bedrooms.

STEPHEN MAGILL  
*Huddersfield, West Yorkshire*

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.  
(Fax: 0171-293 2036; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk)

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## 14 analysis



As Boris Yeltsin prepares for his heart operation, a small, unelected group wield power: his daughter Tatyana, a ruthless in-fighter rumoured to be her lover, and a clutch of heavyweight businessmen. By Phil Reeves

## Russia's new regency

**R**ussians don't much like women taking part in politics. They occasionally profess admiration for Margaret Thatcher or their own Catherine the Great, but most regard the idea of female rule as about as welcome a ban on fur hats. Yet that, in part, is what they now have.

As Boris Yeltsin awaits his heart operation, due this week, power has flowed from his enfeebled grasp into the youthful hands of his younger daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, working with his chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais, and a powerful coterie of businessmen. Less than four months after an election that many in the West hoped would prove that democracy had finally taken root in Russia, unelected members of Moscow's social élite have taken command.

The reaction has been negative. "They [the press] used to attack the president," grumbled Yeltsin's wife, Naina, in a weekend television interview. "Now it is Tatyana who is under fire." The family had stopped showing her husband the more distress-

ing newspaper articles, she said, for fear they would upset him. But this does not appear to have daunted the Kremlin's new political double act. In the past four months, Chubais and his camp have secured the dismissal of their most formidable Kremlin opponents. They have appointed two leading business supporters to senior government jobs, consolidated control over two national television channels, and dictated access to the ailing president. Their enemies call them a regency; even their friends admit they rule the roost.

Even before Chubais and Dyachenko emerged on the scene, backed by a small group of influential pro-reform Moscow bankers and media tycoons, there was a strong sense of public betrayal surrounding Yeltsin's second term. Dozens of election promises have been shelved in the months since the president has been bamboozled and – in some cases – flagrantly bought his way back into the Kremlin.

Ageing and out of touch but for a handful of radio addresses and fleeting glimpses on television, he has become a remote shell of a president, closeted in

a sanatorium after a recurrence of heart trouble in June that his aides initially hushed up, for fear it would wreck his chances in the election's final round. Meanwhile, millions face the onset of winter without pay, benefits, meaningful jobs or even enough food.

Some commentators have begun to hint that she is playing a longer game, and offer tentative comparisons with Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto, or even Indira Gandhi. According to *Moskovskaya Pravda*, one of Moscow's top political consultancies has been working on her profile, purely experimentally, to see how palatable she would be as a candidate. "Who would have thought half a year ago that this lady now marching through the Kremlin corridors with a radio telephone in her hand would become a real political figure?" (There is, in fact, one: an obscure health minister.)

At present, Tatyana's role appears principally to be that of a link – a conduit of information and views between the president, his chief of staff Chubais, and the businessmen behind him. But her larger ambitions are the source of considerable speculation. Does

she aspire for power, high elected office, perhaps even eventually the presidency itself? Or is she simply helping to secure her father's position at a time when he is highly vulnerable to the scheming and plotting of those around him?

This year Boris junior was enrolled in the £15,000-a-year English public school Millfield, in Somerset, where – intriguingly – Chubais at the same time decided to send his son, Alexei. Tatyana has a second boy, a baby.

For years, she remained

behind the scenes, a reserved, stylish-looking woman who was better educated, and better spoken, than her father. She trained as a mathematician and once held a job calculating rocket trajectories. The fullest picture of her came from Yeltsin's autobiographical writings, including a bizarre account of how Yeltsin let her suckle his nipple when she was a baby, to stop her howling on a train. The president makes clear that the women in his family – his wife, Naina, and daughters, Yelena

media powerbrokers, including Boris Berezovsky, who runs a trading and media empire, and Vladimir Gusinsky, head of the Most-Group, coalesced around Chubais. Together, they took control of the task of selling Yeltsin to a sceptical nation. To run the show, they needed a direct line to the president.

the president, she was the only one considered capable of conveying it. And there were occasional flashes of an iron will. "When she said no to something, because the president didn't want it, that was it. It meant no. She had a very powerful veto," said Vyacheslav Nikonov, who worked on the campaign.

### Yeltsin's gatekeeper

No one in Russian politics produces such extreme reactions as Anatoly Chubais, the gatekeeper and right-hand man to Boris Yeltsin. The circle of millionaire bankers and businessmen that support him see him as a brilliant economic and political talent, whose presence in the Kremlin will ensure the future of Russia's free-market reforms and the safety of their fortunes. But for many millions of other Russians, he is a charming lackey of the West who devised a privatisation process in which Russia sold off some of its most treasured assets. Both sides would, however, agree on one front: the 41-year-old presidential chief of staff has the essential quality to survive in the Kremlin shark pool: ruthlessness. In the past four months, he has routed his most important rivals for power. Even before his appointment in July, he secured the dismissal of his main rival for the post of the president, Yeltsin's former bodyguard, General Alexander Korzakov. He was also behind the sacking of General Alexander Lebed.

Ten months ago, Chubais's career seemed to be in sharp decline after Yeltsin sacked him as his privatisation minister as a sop to an anti-reform, anti-Western mood in the country. He has worked his way back to the top with astonishing speed, masterminding Yeltsin's slick election campaign, and winning the post of chief of staff. Since then he has carefully shored up his own power base, sidelining the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. Through his association with Tatyana Dyachenko, Yeltsin's daughter, Chubais is now the only official with daily access to the president. He controls the Kremlin media operation, decides who sees the president, drafts laws and wields strong influence over at least two national TV channels.

yana-Chubais axis. He is also one of a group of political bruisers whom Chubais (helped by Tatyana) have winkled out of the Kremlin in the past few months, most of whom level the same allegation: General Alexander Lebed, the sacked security chief, has talked of their desire to "rule as a duet", and has alleged that Chubais used Tatyana Dyachenko to persuade Yeltsin to fire him.

**G**eneral Alexander Korzhakov, former head of the presidential guard, has accused Chubais of running an "unconstitutional regency", drafting presidential decrees in his own office. Tatyana brings Yeltsin the paperwork. Documents are "all prepared in Chubais's headquarters". The dismissal and alienation of the ex-KGB officer – for years Yeltsin's inseparable friend, trusted adviser, and drinking companion – is one of the most dramatic examples of Dyachenko's influence over her father. It is doubtful that Chubais could have persuaded Yeltsin to sever such a deep bond on his own.

Behind the cut and thrust of politics lies another, more delicate question. Is it true, as wagging tongues in Moscow claim, that the relationship between Chubais, 41, and Tatyana Dyachenko is more than merely professional? Reports of a liaison have been circulating for weeks in Moscow, a city which relishes scandal almost as much as Washington DC. Evidence, however, is in short supply.

In fact, sources say that the president's daughter's closest political associate is Igor Malashenko, president of Russia's commercially run NTV, another member of the campaign team. After the election, Malashenko was offered Chubais's job by Yeltsin, but turned it down. His company has been well rewarded for supporting the Kremlin during and after the elections; it has been allowed more space on the airwaves, is launching a new satellite service, and may even be allowed to buy up the ORT television channel.

But her future political plans overshadow lesser issues. At the moment, she and the Chubais camp hold the cards. They control a huge slice of the national television market – ORT and NTV – and a stack of newspapers. Attention has fixed on them, and not Russia's prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the man to whom power passes, according to the constitution, if Yeltsin is incapacitated. But he has presidential ambitions and plenty of allies in the oil and gas lobby. A rivalry is in the making.

Tatyana Dyachenko must know that the odds in this macho-minded country of a woman – not to mention another Yeltsin – being elected are about as long as they are for a snow-free winter. But she will also remember how Yeltsin has fought back from exile from the Politburo, the scandalous bombardment of the White House, the ludicrous Chechen war, and deep overall unpopularity. Crazy though it seems, she may yet be interested in something more than her father's place in history.



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## How do we stop these flaming terrorists?



Miles  
Kington

F

rantic last-minute talks are being mounted today in order to avert a devastating programme of terrorism planned for this evening all across the British mainland, involving rocket attacks, Chinese mortar assaults and potatoes being dropped in large fires and getting burnt to a cinder.

"It is the same every year," said a harassed Home Office official. "It is the official anniversary of one of the holiest days in the

history of the movement, and they insist on celebrating it. As a result we get a well-orchestrated mass outbreak of explosions and bombs all over Britain. It makes the Apprentice Boys' March look like Blind Man's Buff."

But what is it all for? What is this movement that celebrates such holy days?

"I wish we knew," says the harassed Home Office official. "They never come out and make any demands. They never insist on any reparation. They seem to have no organised head of operations. These demonstrations of violence seem totally uncorrelated, yet they happen with frightening punctuality and regularity. As you probably know, an organisation with no chain of command is a lot harder to penetrate than any other kind. These people make the IRA look like the Boy Scouts."

Where are they based?

"I only wish we knew,"

says what I can only describe as a harassed-looking Home Office official. "They can

cause violence and burning anywhere in the British Isles at will. Our fire brigades are stretched to the limit on November. When the IRA pull off a job, it immobilises that part of town and it monopolises the emergency services in one area. But this Guy Fawkes mob can immobilise the whole bloody country!"

Guy Fawkes? Ah, so you have a name, at least? A lead of some kind?

"That's where they're so bloody clever!" says the Home Office official.

swearing for the second time in as many sentences, which is what they always say, so we were just going to slap her around a little when her husband arrived, steaming hot,

screaming about civil

liberties and torture and

man's basic inhumanity to

man, as if 5 November itself

wasn't an outrage, and on a

far worse scale! We couldn't

get a word in edgeways when

they were both at it, so we

chucked them out still

screaming, him saying he

was going to turn it all into a

powerful one-act drama

about oppression and she

was going to turn it all into a

powerful one-act drama

about oppression and she

was going to turn it all into a

powerful one-act drama

about oppression and she

was going to turn it all into a

powerful one-act drama

about oppression and she

was going to turn it all into a

powerful one-act drama

about oppression and she

was going to turn it all into a

powerful one-act drama

about oppression and she

saying she would back him all the way, and even attend the first night if she had to.

So where does that leave the peace process?

"Peace process?" says a very harassed Home Office official. "There is no peace process. There is just a series of last-minute, behind-the-scenes, under-the-table, behind-closed-doors, in-the-nick-of-time desperate talks."

Between whom?

"We don't even know that."

That's how secret they are."

Then how do you know they are actually going on?

"We don't," confesses a harassed Home Office official.

"I am just saying that to make it seem that something is happening. The truth is that we have no idea what is happening. We shall probably just leave them to get on with it as usual."

There will be death and destruction on a grand scale and there is nothing we can do about it."

And that is why you look so harassed?"

"No. That is because I work for Michael Howard."

Elmer G  
the Brix  
the glove



## obituaries / gazette

# Jean-Bedel Bokassa

When Jean-Bedel Bokassa met Idi Amin for the first time, he wore his decorations. The jacket of his Field Marshal's uniform, especially lengthened and strengthened for the purpose, glittered from neck to knee with every medal he had ever received and every order he had ever dreamt up to present himself. Since he was a short, stout man, and the jacket tapered outwards, the effect was not a Christmas tree without its fairy. Amin, who had turned up in battle-dress, was furious to find himself so upstaged and, it was said, immediately sent his jewellers in to work in a comparable display for himself.

That is a story of the vanity of tyrants. Modern Africa has known dictators more cruel and corrupt than Jean-Bedel Bokassa — Amin was one. Mobutu of Zaire is another — but it has never seen one more vain. He liked nothing more than the limelight and would do almost anything to turn its glow upon himself.

It is as well in a sense that the country he ruled for 13 years is one of the poorest in the world, so that the lack of means set limits to his excesses. His most glorious moments of *folie de grande*, however, elevated him firmly on to the world stage.

The Napoleonic coronation in 1977, at which he became Emperor Bokassa I of Central Africa, on its own would have assured him a place in history. Horses, carriages, jewelled crowns and fur-lined robes, champagne and caviar, thrones and court musicians all were imported from Europe. Surely no public occasion in the 20th century has been more lurid or insane.

But it was not only by extravagance that he courted attention; his friendship with the presidents of France was just as effective. A former soldier in the French army, he is said to have called de Gaulle "Papa". Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, an occasional guest at his game reserve, returned the compliment by referring to Bokassa as his cousin. It was Giscard who ordered the coup in 1979 which ended Bokassa's reign and, by an elegant twist, scandal over a gift of diamonds from Bokassa contributed to Giscard's election defeat two years later.

In a dull moment, Bokassa would declare to a foreign reporter his intention of acquiring the atomic bomb, or he would fly to Libya and, to please Gaddafi, convert to Islam. His unhappy years were those of his exile in France in the early 1980s, when he was reduced to seeking press attention by claiming to be broke and greeting callers at his château by candlelight.

A hatred of obscurity may have been what drove him back, in 1986, to face trial in Bangui, his former capital, where he had already been condemned to death in his absence. For a few days it worked, and the merry old showman again had an audience for his act, but the trial lasted months and the old man's spirit was eventually broken by the unrelenting recital of his acts of tyranny.

For he had been a tyrant, murdering and torturing whilst the world laughed at him. His life was a tragic one, although not for him personally — he largely escaped the consequences of his actions, dying a



Pure pantomime, lurid and insane: Bokassa in 1977 on his coronation as Emperor

airport for which his son-in-law was summarily executed. Months later his son Georges was accused of plotting and fled to France.

Then in December 1976 Bokassa announced that the country was to be an empire, he was to be emperor and his favourite son (by his favourite wife) was his heir. The affair was a farce, boycotted by foreign governments but generously attended by the world's press. Quite how much was spent on it, on banquets, Belair steeds and triumphal arches, will never be known, but it was now clear that the man was mad.

His legend grew: it was reported, for example, that he kept a harem of mistresses at his palace, and that he threw courtesies who displeased him to the lions and crocodiles in his private zoo. Whatever the truth, beneath the brash surface his rule was crumbling. The French were becoming squeamish about supporting him, he had ruined the diamond business (the principal source of hard currency) and he could not pay his civil servants. His soldiers, also unpaid, were touring the wildlife reserves with AK-47s in hand, slaughtering the elephants for their ivory.

Fittingly, it was personal greed which provoked the denouement. On 18 January, street protests began in Bangui when he decreed that all schoolchildren and all students at Jean-Bedel Bokassa University must wear uniforms — only one supplier of uniforms exist-

ed, and it was owned by the Empress Catherine, Bokassa's wife.

Troops fired on the crowds and dozens, perhaps hundreds, were killed, but the unrest, mostly in the form of school strikes, continued until April, when Bokassa, now in a state of fury, ordered a round-up of the troublemakers. Mostly boys aged between 12 and 16, they were hauled off to Ngaranga Prison on the edge of Bangui. There followed a night of appalling violence in which Bokassa personally played a leading part. Children were beaten to death, tortured, stoned and suffocated in overcrowded cells. The final death toll was about 100, and a few of the victims were as young as eight years old.

The massacre was revealed by Amnesty International and the details were quickly confirmed by an international commission of inquiry which the French forced Bokassa to accept. Giscard d'Estaing ordered a coup and David Dacko, whom Bokassa had toppled 13 years earlier, returned to power. The rest of Bokassa's life, spent in the Ivory Coast, France and finally in his native country, was devoted to the pursuit of publicity, which he used mainly in attempts to embarrass France.

In 1986 he surprised everyone by returning to Bangui, where he was tried for his crimes. Few fallen African dictators have been so fortunate in their treatment by the people they oppressed. The case was conducted in public and with

dignity, restraint and thoroughness, and a limited number of specific crimes — half a dozen specific murders in the years 1966-78 and the Ngangba massacre — were examined and proven.

(The most famous charge against Bokassa, that he was a cannibal, was dropped for lack of evidence. There are grounds for believing that the whole story of human meat kept in a freezer, which circulated first in the days after he was toppled, is a myth.)

Bokassa was condemned to death, but the sentence was commuted to 20 years imprisonment and he was eventually released three years ago. The experience did not reform or humble him: his first act on being freed was to apply, in the name of Bokassa the First, to stand for president.

The truth about Bokassa, for all his antics, is not unusual. He was a military dictator of low intelligence but some cunning who took a poor country and over 13 years exploited its few assets relentlessly for his own grotesque advantage, ultimately leaving it in a state of anarchy and ruin.

His legend grew: it was reported, for example, that he kept a harem of mistresses at his palace, and that he threw courtesies who displeased him to the lions and crocodiles in his private zoo. Whatever the truth, beneath the brash surface his rule was crumbling. The French were becoming squeamish about supporting him, he had ruined the diamond business (the principal source of hard currency) and he could not pay his civil servants. His soldiers, also unpaid, were touring the wildlife reserves with AK-47s in hand, slaughtering the elephants for their ivory.

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**Birthdays**

Mr Richard Annand VC, 82; Sir John Bailey, former HM Procurator General, 68; Mr John Berger, author and art critic, 76; Mr Edgar Bowring, former chairman, CTC Bowring & Co, 81; Major Sir Rupert Clarke, former chairman, National Australia Bank, 77; The Right Rev Francis Coates, former Bishop of Shrewsbury, 63; Mr Art Garfunkel, singer and composer, 55; General Sir John Hatchett, soldier, scholar and author, 84; Mrs Caroline Jackson, MEP, 50; Dr Paul Knapman, Westminster coroner, 52; Sir David Mason, former President, St George's Hospital Corrocal, 60; Mr Nicholas Maw, composer, 61; Mr Steve Miller, musician, 43; Mr Lester Morris QC, MP, 65; Mr Peter Nourse, rock musician and singer, 49; Miss Tatsumi Ono, actress, 32; Mr Lester Piggott, jockey, 61; Rear-Admiral Andrew Richmonde, former Chief Executive, RSPCA, 65; Mr Roy Rogers, actor, 34; Miss Elle Sommers, actress, 56; Lord Stallard, former Labour MP, 75; Sir William Stubbs, chief executive, Further Education Funding Council, 52; Mr Eldred Tuzchuk QC, President Board of Deputies of British Jews, 53; Mr Ned Tenkoff, editor, *Jewish Chronicle*, 44; Sir Anthony Tennaor, chairman, Christie's International, 66.

### Anniversaries

Births: Léon-Philippe Tisserende de Bort, meteorologist and discoverer of the stratosphere, 1855; John Donald Sanderson Haldane, physiologist and geneticist, 1892; Vivien Leigh (Vivien Hartley), actress, 1913; Death: Pierre-Amboise François Choderlos de Laclos, soldier and writer, 1803; Maurice Utrillo, painter, 1955; Jacques Tati (*Jabotif*), actor and director, 1982; Eamonn Andrews, television presenter, 1987.

**Dinners**

National Gallery: Jacqueline Lewis, "Grand Tours (I): Aristocrats Abroad, Batoni, *Portrait of a Gentleman*", 1pm.  
Victoria and Albert Museum: Cullinan Rimell, "Metal Inlaid Decoration on Furniture", 2.30pm.  
Tate Gallery: Jeremy Black, "Responses to Italy and France", 1pm.  
British Museum: Lorna Oakes, "Ancient Egyptian Thought in the Old Testament", 1.15pm.  
National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury and the Gunpowder Plot", 1.10pm.  
RIBA Architecture Centre, London SW1: Nels Top talks about his work, Institute of Economic Affairs, London SW1; Professor Terence Kealey, "The Economic Laws of Scientific Research", 6.30pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Peter Hennessy, "Premiership II: The Colonel and the Drawing Room", Anthony Eden 1955-57, 1pm.  
**Royal Overseas League**  
Mr Norman Lamont MP was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Royal Overseas League's Discussion Circle held yesterday at the Royal Overseas House, London SW1. His subject was "Britain's Relation with Europe".

### Royal Engagements

The Prince Regent attended a party to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Dufferin Street, London WC1; Sir President, Animal Health Trust, Kennet Club, London W1 and attended an Inter-Continental Meeting of Dog-handlers and their Dogs, organised by the International Yacht Racing Union's Annual Dinner and World Sailor of the Year Awards at the Grand Hotel, Bayswater Road, London W2; The Queen's Personal Bodyguard, the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, attended a council meeting at the hospital, London W1; and as Patron, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, attended a reception at Church House Conference Centre, Dean's Yard, London SW1. Princess Michael of Kent attended a reception at the Jersey Street Theatre, London SW1.

**Changing of the Guard**  
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1pm.

# Rohan Butler

Rohan Butler, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, from 1938 to 1984 and Historical Adviser to the Foreign Secretary from 1963 to 1982, made one of the most significant and, at a length of over 1,100 pages, monumental contributions to 18th-century studies.

*Choiseul: father and son, 1719-1754*, published in 1980, was much more than a study of the early years of Louis XV's Lorraine-born chief minister; it was a pioneering attempt to break loose from a Gallocentric view of continental history and to explore a cosmopolitan society for which the concept of the "nation-state" had very little meaning. The *Choiseul* volume was as much a portrait of overlapping European élites as it was the prelude in what should have been a multi-volume biography of one of the dominant figures of 18th-century political history.

Butler was uniquely suited to this demanding task. Born in London, he was raised in Geneva, where his father, Sir Harold Butler, a member of the Ormonde clan, was head of the International Labour Office. Although he was educated at Eton, the long periods of time spent with his family in Switzerland helped to produce a very subtle and nuanced view of European political culture and to perfect his expert command of languages, spoken French and German, read Italian and Castilian.

Following a first class degree at Balliol College, Oxford, he was elected in 1938, to a fellowship at All Souls — as had been his father, one generation earlier — and All Souls remained one of the two centres of his life. The next year, 1939, he published his analysis of contemporary German history, *The Roots of National Socialism*, which attempted to place the Nazi movement within the broader structures of German culture.

During the Second World War Butler was on the staff of the Ministry of Information, transferring to the Foreign Office in 1944. His life would remain a fugal exchange between public service and university scholarship. His commitment to the 18th century was undiminished, but following the war Butler, from his base at All Souls, participated on the invitation of Sir Llewellyn Woodward, in the preparation of the *Documents of British Foreign Policy*, of which he was senior editor from 1955 to 1965. These volumes confirmed Butler's fundamental belief in the centrality for historical research of primary, archival documentation, the bedrock of his work on Choiseul.

His commanding position in 18th-century studies had been established in 1980 by the publication of *Choiseul*. The density and meticulous integrity of research, based upon a wide range of public and private archives,

underscored Butler's determination to view historical writing from, as he often said, "the inside", from the perspective of the deployers of power, their priorities and their biases, not from "the outside", where others misguidedly attempt to tidy history into overarching causal themes in a linear, deterministic and, ultimately, moralising structure. This approach was shared by two of his close friends, Hugh Murray Baillie and Ragnhild Hatton, and the work of all three scholars has made a profound impact on late-20th-century historiography.

Already honoured by his nomination in 1966 as CMG and in 1981 by the award of an Oxford DLitt, Butler received the special distinction, exceptionally rare for a foreigner, as a Laureate of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques in Paris, in recognition of his enormous achievement in *Choiseul*. His friends and admirers were surprised that other British academic acknowledgements eluded him. Recognition in France should not obscure the fact that this volume was really a study of European, not exclusively French, history, and its sequel, tragically never finished, devoted to Choiseul's years as ambassador in Rome and Vienna would have expanded upon his cosmopolitan theme.

The last sentence, on page 1,078, of *Choiseul: father and son* reads: "The diplomatic and political career of the Duke of Choiseul had begun." This marked down Butler's view that his mammoth work was simply a prelude to a broader project, a second and even larger volume on Choiseul's ambassadorial years, a third in his tenure as Louis XV's chief minister and possibly, or so some friends urged, a fourth on Choiseul in retirement and on his activities as a patron of the arts. None of this will now be realised, nor will his dissection of the Choiseul system as the source of a distinct strand of 19th-century democratic liberalism.

A man of abundant generosity to his friends, two articles included in Festschriften to other scholars will support his academic reputation: his contribution on "pseudodiplomacy", a concept which he defined, in *Studies in Diplomatic History in Honour of G.P. Gooch OM*, and his startling revelation of the intricacies of personal diplomacy between monarchs in the 18th century which will be published early in 1997 in the memorial volume honouring Ragnhild Hatton, *Royal and Republican Sovereignty in Early Modern Europe*. A third article, on the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, in the *New Cambridge Modern History*, directs attention to the breadth of Butler's chronological canvas.

Robert Butler was a towering figure, his imposing physical size and presence complementing his penetrating intellect and his exacting methodology. He combined many worlds in one life and one career and he will be deeply missed as both a formidable personality in the theatre of Oxford life and as a scholar who commanded the deepest respect in the world of international erudition.

### Robert Oreske

**Rohan D'Olier Butler, historian:** born London 21 January 1917; Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford 1938-84 (Emeritus); Sub-Warden 1961-63; Historical Adviser to the Foreign Secretary 1963-82; CMG 1966; married 1956 Lucy Byron (three stepdaughters); died Chelmsford 30 October 1996.



Butler: a magisterial figure of penetrating intellect

## Police can claim damages over Hillsborough

### LAW REPORT

5 November 1996

against the refusal of his claim for damages for psychiatric injury suffered after attempting to resuscitate a minor injured as a result of the corporation's negligence.

Ben Hymer QC, *Graham Platts (Russell Jones & Walker) Ltd v. Police officers* (for the officers Andrew Colledge QC, Patrick limb (Hammond Suddaby, Leeds), for the chief constable William Phillips (Keeble Hawson, Sheffield) for Duncan; Richard Maxwell QC (Inbarro Nathanson) for the corporation).

Lord Justice Rose said the nature of the job and degree of fortitude to be expected of the employee. A rescuer, whether a policeman or layman, might recover against a tortfeasor for physical or psychiatric injury sustained during a rescue. An employee might, depending on the circumstances, recover against his employer for physical or psychiatric injury caused in the course of his employment by the employer's negligence.

It had long been recognised that the ambit of persons affected by negligence might extend beyond those actually subject to physical impact, particularly to rescuers, who were in a special category (see *Chadwick v. British Railways Board* [1967] 1 WLR 912). Whether a particular plaintiff was a rescuer was in each case a question of fact to be decided in the light of all the circumstances.

Once it was accepted that there was no justification for regarding physical and psychiatric injuries as different kinds of injury, when an employer negligently caused physical injury to one employee, it seemed impossible to contend that he was not equally liable to a fellow employee of normal fortitude working on the same task who sustained psychiatric injury, whether through fear for him self or through witnessing what happened to his fellow worker.

Two grounds of liability were put forward. First, breach of a duty of care by the chief constable, arising from the plaintiff's service as police officers acting under his direction and

control, not to expose them to unnecessary risk of physical or psychiatric injury suffered after attempting to resuscitate a minor injured as a result of the corporation's negligence.

It had long been recognised that the ambit of persons affected by negligence might extend beyond those actually subject to physical impact, particularly to rescuers, who were in a special category (see *Chadwick v. British Railways Board* [1967] 1 WLR 912). Whether a particular plaintiff was a rescuer was in each case a question of fact to be decided in the light of all the circumstances. Once it was accepted that there was no justification for regarding physical and psychiatric injuries as different kinds of injury, when an employer negligently caused physical injury to one employee, it seemed impossible to contend that he was not equally liable to a fellow employee of normal fortitude working on the same task who sustained psychiatric injury, whether through fear for him self or through witnessing what happened to his fellow worker.

The standard of care and the degree of proximity would vary from case to case according to

Paul Magrath, Barrister

## Deaths

**GRAHAM** On 2 November 1996, peacefully, Cedric, aged 73 years, formerly of Merrifield, Somerset. Beloved husband of the late June, and a dear brother to his three brothers, will be very sadly missed. Funeral service at Worthing Crematorium at 11.30am on Tuesday 12 November. Flowers or donations, if wished, to Cancer Research UK, 31 King Edward Street, London SW1.

**PETT** On 30 October 1996, suddenly, Captain Alan William Tupper RN (Ret'd), aged 69 years. Formerly of Littlehampton, beloved husband of Harriet and father of Christopher, Virginia, Stephen, Simon, Giles and Matthew, and devoted grandfather. Funeral service at Castle Combe Church on Saturday 4 November at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Leigh Cemetery, Leigh-on-Sea. Friends and well-wishers, donations to the RNLI West Quay Road, Poole, BH1 1HZ.

For Gazette, please telephone 0171-243 2111.

# business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS &amp; CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

## Oftel to look at £13bn BT takeover

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

British Telecom's proposed £13bn takeover of MCI, the US long-distance telephone operator, was facing mounting regulatory hurdles last night as AT&T, its giant American rival, said it would lodge a formal objection with the UK telecommunications watchdog, Oftel.

It also emerged that it will take up to a year to gain approval for the deal from competition authorities on both sides of the Atlantic.

One possible line of concern that could be investigated by Don Cruickshank, the UK regulator, is the 13.5 per cent stake in Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation which Concert, the new global company, will inherit from MCI. Mr Cruickshank has recently ordered BT to stop cross-promoting BSkyB satellite TV services in its advertising literature.

BT has already said it expects to take until autumn next year to get official approval. A

tomers.

Mentioning BT alongside the other leading European operators, he said: "If a country has a single, strong national telecommunications firm, it has a big problem."

"In the US we are very lucky that AT&T was broken up by court order in the early 1980s. Yet nowhere else around the globe do we see a repetition of our clearly successfully experiment with demonopolisation."

Shares in BT soared yesterday as most City analysts gave the deal with MCI their seal of approval on the grounds that it boosted short-term value for shareholders.

BT shares ended the day 22p higher at 373p, having risen at one stage to 38.4p.

The highest rated UK team of telecoms analysts at BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, changed their assessment of the stock to a "buy" recommendation while Hoare Govett, the stockbrokers, raised their fair value judgement of BT's share price from 350p to 400p.



Transatlantic team: The new Concert logo

spokeswoman for Oftel confirmed the UK side of the investigation had begun and said: "When we'll finish we can't say. We don't know until we study the agreement what sort of issues we need to address. There are other authorities who will be involved, including the DTL."

AT&T had previously announced its intention to lobby Oftel's US counterpart, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Department of Justice on the grounds that BT still had a virtual monopoly of local telephone services.

US regulators have made clear they will only approve the deal if US firms can gain similar access to British phone markets as rival operators can achieve in the US. AT&T has 55 per cent of the US long-distance phone market, while since the group's break-up in the mid-1980s, it has been excluded from the \$10bn local market.

However, during a visit to the UK in September, the chairman of the FCC expressed serious concerns about the openness of all European telecoms markets. In a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Reed Hundt warned that most European telephone markets remained closed to competition for residential cus-

Comment, page 19



Going through the roof: Analysts say that house price inflation in double digits is looking more likely as prices increase sharply

## Zip in homes market 'signals rate rise'

Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

Fresh signs of zip in the housing market point to the prospect of further rises in interest rates economists said yesterday. The Bank of England's quarterly Inflation Report, out tomorrow, is expected to say that unless base rates increase again the Government is likely to miss its inflation target.

"It is very unlikely that just one touch on the tiller will be enough," said Paul Martin-Lee, chief economist at investment bank Paribas.

He added that the Bank was likely to shade down its inflation forecast compared with its August report, but it was very

clear that the economy was building up steam.

Official figures due today are expected to signal a bounce in manufacturing output in September. Meanwhile the evidence of buoyant consumer demand continues to pile up.

House prices rose by 1.6 per cent in October, the biggest monthly increase since February 1994, according to Halifax Building Society. That took them 7.1 per cent higher than a year earlier, the fastest year-on-year increase since 1989.

The average house price of £65,609 against £61,251 in October 1995. Halifax has revised up its full-year forecast for house prices to 7 per cent and is predicting a similar advance

next year. Other housing market experts think this is still much too cautious. James Barty, an economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "The housing market is very buoyant. House prices inflation in double digits across the country is looking more and more likely."

Last week, Nationwide Building Society reported a 7.9 per cent rise in prices over the past year, and a jump of 0.8 per cent last month compared with September.

Separate figures yesterday showed that new housebuilding starts rose by 16 per cent in the three months to September. The total of 47,100 starts was 13 per cent higher than in the same

three months a year earlier. Figures did confirm the general picture of robust consumer spending.

The weekly sales figures from John Lewis, the department store group, added further anecdotal evidence. The amount of money passing through its tills in the week to 26 October was the highest so far this year, though the timing of half-term meant the year-on-year growth increased to 7.5 per cent from 7.2 per cent in September.

The amount of cash in circulation in the economy, the main component of M0, climbed by £100m during the month. Although M0 is not a reliable month-to-month indicator of retail sales, yesterday's

## Leslau cashes in £5m Burford share options

Tom Stevenson  
City Editor

Nick Leslau, the 36 year old chief executive of the Burford and Trocadero property groups, cashed in share options worth more than £5m yesterday to pay off personal tax and debts.

Following the deal he still retains 21.5 per cent of Burford shares worth another £5m and a further 2.8 million options.

Considered one of the shrewdest property dealers, Leslau has built Burford rapidly with his partner Nick Wray, who made his fortune in the 1980s by buying a political newsletter and turning it into a white elephant. The Irc had brought down three former owners but was transformed into a leisure goldmine and

spun off into a separately quoted stock market vehicle.

Leslau persuaded Japanese games giant Sega to develop a virtual reality theme park inside the centre called Segaworld to capitalise on the vast numbers of young tourists who throng the West End each year but had previously walked past, or worse, through the Trocadero.

Other high profile acquisitions by Leslau and Wray, dubbed with reference to the chairman of British Land the "Rubbins of tomorrow", have included the rights to Enid Blyton's literary estate including children's favourite Noddy.

The company also bought the London Pavilion, the shopping centre next to the Trocadero and announced a deal with Marvel Mania.



Caption - locked to grid

## Leading cable operators join anti-Sky campaign

Matthew Horsman  
Media Editor

Britain's cable companies will renew their attack on Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB today, claiming the company is acting anti-competitively in the supply of pay-TV programming in the UK market.

For the first time, two of the country's leading cable operators, Nymex CableComms and

Telwest Communications, are lending their voice to the anti-Sky campaign, despite having signed controversial long-term supply agreements with BSkyB that had previously led to deep rifts in the cable industry.

In a statement signed by all cable operators, the industry will reject BSkyB's most recent "rate card", which lays out the terms and the prices under which Sky's channels are offered

on a wholesale basis to the cable industry. The companies are evading legal action against BSkyB, and will call on the Office of Fair Trading to look again at the company's dominant position in the market for pay-TV programming.

The move coincides with submissions to the European Commission in Brussels criticising the ever-closer ties between BSkyB and BT, which are co-op-

erating on the introduction of digital services from next year.

On BSkyB's rate card, a senior cable source said last night:

"We don't like the fact that we are forced to sell channels in a certain way, despite what customers might want. Viewers are required to pay for services that they neither want nor use."

"We decided as an industry that it was time everybody has

took a fresh new look, based on

customers' preferences," said Stephen Davidson, chief executive of Telwest Communications, and chairman of the Cable Communications Association.

The new rate card was produced following a formal inquiry by the OFT, which largely cleared BSkyB of charges that it was acting anti-competitively.

The OFT asked the cable industry to respond to the revised rate card, which was meant to

make it easier for cable operators to package cable channels in line with market demand. However, the cable companies will argue that the new terms are no less onerous than the previous rate card, and that it could undermine the principles of consumer choice.

The attack on Sky follows several days of intensely negative press comment about BSkyB's control of the pay-TV market.

Dealers were expecting the issue to be priced late last night, following the close of the market in New York.

Meanwhile, it emerged last night that Granada, the media company with an 11 per cent stake in BSkyB, was also considering ways of converting its shares into cash, as part of its attempts to reduce debt following its £3.9bn takeover of Forte this year.

A Granada insider said: "We are looking at ways to mortgage the BSkyB stake, but no decision has yet been taken."

Mr Murdoch's convertible issue, which was originally pitched last week, had to be delayed when it became clear that it coincided with a "close period" just in advance of BSkyB's quarterly results, released last Friday.

Mr Murdoch's News America Holdings, which is issuing the

## Murdoch set to price share issue

Matthew Horsman

Rupert Murdoch was last night poised to proceed with his controversial £1bn-plus preference share issue, convertible into shares of BSkyB, his 40-per-cent-owned UK satellite broadcaster.

Dealers were expecting the issue to be priced late last night, following the close of the market in New York.

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STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
Indices	Close	Week's high	Change (%)	2558 High	2558 Low	Year (%)			
FTSE 100	3948.50	-73.9	-1.9	4073.10	3852.30	3.97			
FTSE 250	4429.20	-2.3	-0.1	4568.60	4015.30	3.52			
FTSE 350	1971.40	-29.2	-1.5	2022.10	1816.60	3.67			
FTSE SmallCap	2167.41	-11.5	-0.5	2344.38	1954.08	3.14			
FTSE All-Share	1946.55	-27.3	-1.4	1994.54	1791.95	3.82			
New York	6221.93	+14.9	+0.2	6094.23	5032.94	2.16			
London	20633.68	-105.9	-0.5	22668.80	19734.70	0.781			
Hong Kong	1252.27	+149.1	+1.2	12529.27	10204.67	3.31			
Frankfurt	2883.25	+9.0	+0.3	2734.62	2253.36	1.751			
Statistics as of 4 November									

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates									
Bank yield curve 4/12/96 (%)	7.00	6.69	7.70	7.80	7.81	8.02			
1/1/96									
Month ago									
US	5.38	5.59	6.35	5.92	6.66	6.26			
Japan	0.47	0.50	2.52	-	-	-			
Germany	3.06	3.31	6.02	6.44	6.85	-			
France	4.00	4.10	4.20	4.30	4.40	4.50			
Other	4.00	4.10	4.20	4.30	4.40	4.50			
Source: Bloomberg									

CURRENCIES									
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COMMENT

A highly unstable and potentially unwieldy management structure is being created. No company ultimately needs or can live with two chairmen and two chief executives'

## British Telecom is marrying on the rebound

**I**t is easy to be sceptical about British Telecom's merger with MCI. Easy, but wrong. To begin with, let's look at why this might be a bad thing for BT and its shareholders.

For a start, it looks too much like a deal on the rebound to be taken seriously as the claimed marriage made in heaven. If MCI was the perfect partner all along, what were the talks with Cable & Wireless all about? Just a casual fling? It is hard to resist the impression that BT just wants to do a deal – any deal. This, in other words, is expansion for the sake of it, management egomaniac and all the other reasons why companies with big balance sheets and money to burn tend to go away.

Second, the price being paid is plainly a full one, even if the promised special dividend and share buybacks go some way to enabling BT shareholders to participate in their company's show of largesse. The claimed eventual cost savings of £500m a year barely justify the premium being paid. Third, it is hard to see what benefits, other than cost savings, BT derives from 100 per cent ownership that it could not have got from its present 20 per cent holding in MCI. The existing level of investment might seem enough for all the international joint ventures and initiatives BT could possibly want.

Fourth, as with any international merger, a highly unstable and potentially unwieldy management structure is being created. No company ultimately needs or can live with

two chairmen and two chief executives, even when its two main businesses happen to be on either side of the Atlantic. The structure proposed by BT is a formula for possibly explosive friction.

Fifth, and possibly most important, BT is spending a small fortune expanding in what is fast becoming a commodity service in what is also the world's most competitive telecommunications market. Even the most basic of management textbooks tells you this is about the worst thing you could possibly do.

OK. These are all good reasons for BT to sit on its hands and do nothing. "Long-term strategies," as Lawrence Haworth, telecoms analyst at Robert Fleming, remarked over the weekend, "do not make for good short-term shareholder value." BT should have been satisfied, the argument runs, with simply paying back vast amounts of its capital to shareholders in the form of special dividends and share buybacks, as so many of its deeply boring and unimaginative peers among the British utilities apparently are. Never mind the fact that the effect thus far has helped to transform them into some of the most hated institutions in the land, undermining the present Government's electoral chances in the process.

Fortunately, however, this is not the way of the world. The business of managing decline obviously has a place in most large organisations, but those that pursue it as a key objective ultimately fail. BT knows about little else outside telecommunications

and related value-added services. What is it supposed to do? Expand into high-margin women's lingerie? Alternatively it might have sat around and awaited the windfall profit tax, or, like British Gas, self-destructed in endless argument with its domestic regulator. Now that shareholders would really have thanked their board for. This is the strategy of despair and rightly BT is having none of it.

BT is proposing to invest its money in a relatively safe enterprise it knows quite a lot about which should, on a five to 10-year view, help put the company at the forefront of developments in one of the world's fastest-growing global businesses. What's so wrong with that?

### BT may avoid paying Labour's windfall tax

**T**he fortune BT is spending on MCI is a timely reminder of just what a tempting target it would make for Labour's windfall tax. When it comes to balance sheets, few are as robust as that of BT, as the £5.5bn in cash it is paying out under the MCI deal demonstrates. All this and a 10 per cent share buyback to come.

There is, therefore, no doubt that BT could afford to pay the windfall tax. Whether it actually will depends on how Mr Blair decides to levy it. Even though BT was plainly underpriced and overcapitalised on

privatisation, the company will escape the tax if it is calculated on the arbitrary, random and unfair basis of total shareholder return – currently the favoured option.

Labour might just as well calculate the new tax according to how pay scales inside utility boardrooms compare with the national average, for all the difference it would make. Or what about basing it on the combined height of all the executive directors? Better still, levy it in reverse alphabetical order, starting with Yorkshire Water and United Utilities.

There is no decent way of levying this unfortunate tax. All methods suffer from one flaw or another. But perhaps the least bad way might be to calculate it on the basis of market capitalisation, since this would at least penalise all privatised utilities in equal proportion to their ability to pay.

### Somebody should have a pop at Greycoat

**W**hen you are rescued by the likes of Brian Myerson and Julian Treger's UK Active Value Fund, as Greycoat was three years ago, you have to expect the subsequent ride to be uncomfortable. For turnaround funds like this, a year is a long time, let alone three; having watched its 10 per cent shareholding go nowhere in that time, the impatience of UK Active with Greycoat's management is understandable.

At 143.5p, Greycoat's shares stand at a discount of getting on for 30 per cent to the underlying value of the properties it owns minus the debt it took on to develop them. With a heavy exposure to the relatively buoyant central London property market, Greycoat really ought to be trading at a smaller discount.

Something is plainly awry. Bad management say Myerson and Treger, and a radical solution is the only way out – sell all the properties and give the cash back to shareholders who are better equipped to invest it properly.

Bad shareholders, responds Greycoat – our shares have bombed, but what do you expect with the likes of UK Active scaring the horses? Hoisting a "for sale" sign at this stage in the cycle is madness; the company claims. And what becomes of all the tax losses we managed to build up by misreading the last boom and bust?

There's a grain of truth in both arguments. Butting up shareholders with a 50 per cent dividend hike yesterday, Greycoat tacitly agreed that it was overexposed to a couple of giant developments and would have partly to unwind its portfolio over time. By the same token, it hardly helped to have a potential seller of 10 per cent of the shares crashing around the share register undermining the incumbent management.

The best solution for all concerned would be if highlighting the value gap tempts someone else to have a pop at the company.

## British Biotech shares slump on 'complicated data'

Magnus Grimond

British Biotech's shares slumped 9 per cent yesterday despite test results which the company claimed provided further confirmation of the effectiveness of its Marimastat anti-cancer treatment. The company, whose shares soared a year ago on hopes for Marimastat, said the phase two trials involving 381 cancer sufferers were the most wide-ranging yet and gave further evidence of the drug's ability to restrain the disease across a wide range of cancers. But it was rewarded with a 21.5p slump in the share price to 207.5p yesterday.

JAMES NOLBE, finance director, said: "It is rather odd that the shares have gone down, because these are by far the most important results we have reported as a company." He ascribed the reaction to the fact that data was "just very, very complicated".

Many analysts, however, downplayed the significance of the results, which for the first

time included information on trials with patients with gastric and colorectal cancers. One analyst said: "Our broad thinking is that the information doesn't really add substantially to what we already know." Questions remained about the dosage regime and the side-effects of the drug, which causes pains in the arm and shoulder when used over a prolonged period.

The data was presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology meeting in Vienna, which brings together cancer specialists from all round Europe. British Biotech said the tests confirmed earlier results that showed higher dosage rates of 10mg, 25mg and 50mg twice a day were more effective than lower ones. The group claimed that the outcomes confirmed there was a connection between a reduction in antigens, used as a marker to monitor the progression of cancer, and a reduction in the disease.

"It is absolutely proved that we can reduce the antigens in a group of 381 patients and

where we reduce the antigens people live longer," Mr Noble said. "We obviously think it is the drug's effect, but we can't prove it as yet."

The results in 14 patients suffering from gastric cancers showed half appearing to respond or showing no further progression of the disease. Despite microscopic evidence that Marimastat was coating tumours in a fibre, as predicted, analysts said the sample size was too small to be significant. Other studies in colorectal, ovarian and pancreatic cancers had shown similar results, Mr Noble said.

Phase three trials under way on Marimastat remain the key to the drug's final approval and launch onto the market, which is unlikely before 1999 or 2000, analysts say. A treatment for pancreatic cancer is likely to be first to market, but external sales forecasts vary widely from \$100m in the first year to \$1bn.

Later this month, the group will give phase three test data for its Lexipitant treatment



Re-inventing a Colossus: Graham Melmoth, new head of the UK's largest Co-Op group

## New Co-Op boss prepares for 21st Century

Nigel Cope

Co-Op has been fragmented but I would like to ensure that the operations of the regions are controlled more centrally."

He wants more emphasis on central management, more investment in its people and more emphasis on strategic planning.

Re-inventing a colossus such as the CWS is a huge task. With annual sales of £3bn, the CWS is the main supplier of goods and services to the individual co-operative retail societies. But it also owns Co-Operative Bank and the Co-Operative Insurance Society. It's high street portfolio includes more than 700 Co-Op shops, 241 travel agents, 346 funeral parlours and a chain of opticians. With 50,000 acres it is the country's biggest farmer.

As the most senior executive within Britain's Co-Op, his brief is to modernise the movement, bring its various parts closer together and make it more competitive.

An attempted merger with its smaller counterpart, the Co-Operative Retail Society failed last year when the two could not agree terms. Many see a merger as essential if the movement is to compete effectively against powerful competitors whose access to stock market capital gives them an advantage.

"I think a merger will happen," Mr Melmoth said. "The

CWS is a huge task. With annual sales of £3bn, the CWS is the main supplier of goods and services to the individual co-operative retail societies. But it also owns Co-Operative Bank and the Co-Operative Insurance Society. It's high street portfolio includes more than 700 Co-Op shops, 241 travel agents, 346 funeral parlours and a chain of opticians. With 50,000 acres it is the country's biggest farmer.

My priority is to improve the society's performance. We've got a good spread of assets but I am hoping to get them to perform better," Mr Melmoth said.

His challenge is to fashion a future for a movement which sometimes appears weighed down by its history. Born out of the original Co-Op movement which was started by a group of Rochdale pioneers in 1844, the CWS started life in 1863.

### IN BRIEF

• German industrial output fell unexpectedly in September. A fall of 1.8 per cent, the first drop since February, took production to a level 1.5 per cent lower than a year earlier. Both manufacturing and energy output declined during the month. However, the Economics Ministry indicated that the preliminary figure might be revised up substantially. Economists said GDP remained likely to rise by up to 1 per cent in the third quarter after the 1.5 per cent increase in the second quarter.

• The Royal Bank of Scotland subsidiary Citizens Financial Group has agreed to acquire Grove Bank, based in Boston, for \$57m (£35m). Grove, a savings bank, and Greater Boston Bank - which Grove is in the process of acquiring - have assets of \$766m and 10 branches between them. The deal will bring Citizens' branch network in New England to 240.

• Monument Derivatives has bought the research and bond broking business of the London Bond Broking Company from the Birmingham brokers Albert E Sharpe. Monument, an equity derivatives broker on Liffe, said the acquisition of the new team, which includes City economist Stephen Lewis, would allow it to expand its research and broking services.

• TI Group has said it will not increase its recommended £189m bid for Forshedha, the Swedish polymer group. TI has been put under pressure from a group of rebel shareholders led by Henderson Investors, to raise its bid.

• Rank Group is to sell Shearings, its coach holidays business, to a management buy-out team backed by NatWest Ventures for an undisclosed sum. The business is expected to fetch £50m-£100m.

• British Airways chairman Sir Colin Marshall said implementation of its planned alliance with AMR Corp until American Airlines could be delayed until after the expiry of its code sharing agreement with US Air Group in April 1997. Sir Colin said he was "hopeful" that BA would win US and EU anti-trust approval for its tie-up with AMR Corp until American Airlines "whether we will implement the alliance by 1997 is still to be seen".

• Four bidders have been shortlisted for the proposed privatisation of the Government's loans to UK housing associations. One is a consortium of building societies including Abbey National, Halifax and Nationwide. The others are NatWest Markets and a consortium which includes the Housing Finance Corp, UBS, Barclays and Bank of Scotland. The Prudential Mortgages Corporation has applied only for loans held by the Housing of Wales association. The combined loan portfolios have a book value of almost £1bn.

## Greycoat fights back with payout pledge

Tom Stevenson

City Editor

The acrimonious battle between property developer Greycoat and one of its largest shareholders moved up a gear yesterday with the publication of first-half results and the promise of a 50 per cent dividend rise for the full year.

Greycoat used the issue of its interim figures to call on shareholders to reject a recent demand from Brian Myerson and Julian Treger's UK Active Value Fund that the company sell all its properties and return the proceeds to shareholders.

Peter Thornton, chief executive of Greycoat, said breaking the company up made no sense for three reasons: it would sac-

rifice the inherent growth potential of its central London development sites; it would hang a "closing down sale" sign over the company, reducing the prices it could raise through a disposal; and it would incur sizeable penalties for unwinding various financing hedges.

Greycoat's latest row with UK Active, which holds 10 per cent of the company's shares and which has been on the register since a rescue refinancing in 1993, was prompted two weeks ago when Mr Myerson and Mr Treger called on the company to break itself up as a means of narrowing the widening gap between its share price and the underlying value of its assets.

The gap between the value

of Greycoat's shares and the value of the properties it owns minus its debts is wider than for most of its peers. UK Active values put this down to poor management; the company blames concern over the presence of a disgruntled shareholder on the register.

The move by UK Active has been widely seen as an attempt to highlight the value gap and flush out a possible bidder for the company rather than necessarily a genuine call for a break-up of the company. It is thought that number of property companies would be interested in buying Greycoat with perhaps three years of the current property cycle upturn remaining.

Announcing a 12.5 per cent

rise in interim pre-tax profits from £1.7m to £3.5m, Greycoat promised a full-year dividend of 12.5p, a 50 per cent increase on last year's 0.8p payout. That in turn represented a 33 per cent rise over the previous year's dividend. The company does not pay an interim dividend.

UK Active responded to Greycoat's figures with a further condemnation of the company's record: "This is yet again more hollow promises of value to come. Shareholders should ask the promised value will be delivered."

"It is three years since Greycoat was rescued by UKAV and in that time the company has failed to convince the market that it has a clear strategy for growth."



Peter Thornton: Fighting move to break up Greycoat

## T&N gets asbestos reprise

Magnus Grimond

T&N, the auto components maker, was yesterday given a temporary reprieve from a ruling which could have reopened hundreds of millions of dollars in lawsuits resulting from its past life as an asbestos company.

Even so, the shares slumped 4.5p to 129p as the group warned less buoyant markets and destocking were hitting margins in pistons, friction products and gaskets. It was "particularly difficult to assess the final outcome of the year's results", T&N said.

The stay on asbestos lawsuits came as the US Supreme Court agreed to review a ruling by the Philadelphia third circuit which earlier this year decertified the so-called Georgia system agreed in 1994 for settling claims out of court. As a result of the Supreme Court's intervention, the Georgia procedure will continue to operate while the court review is in progress.

T&N said it expected asbestos litigation charges would continue to be incurred in line with previous estimates of around £25m for the second half of 1996. If the Supreme Court had rejected the request, Georgia would have been formally ended 21 days after the judgement.

## Alliance & Leicester investors seek meeting

Investors angry at the terms of the Alliance & Leicester's £2.8m conversion from a building society to a bank are demanding a special meeting with its directors ahead of the vote to approve conversion, which is due to be held in the London Arena on 10 December.

The Alliance & Leicester has decided to treat all its 2.4 million savers and borrowers the same when it comes to the payout of shares.

They will each get 250 shares worth at least £1,000 – a move that has upset some customers who have large sums invested or who have been with the society for many years.

"I would think there are probably several hundred thousand people who are feeling bitterly aggrieved," said Mr Mountain.

Patrick Mountain, 63, of Somerton, Somerset, a retired businessman and a former agent of the society, said he had received dozens of phone calls.

He is urging people who are angry to write protest letters warning they will withdraw all their savings, except for the amount needed to qualify for the shares.

chosen scheme is the fairest and most appropriate for the vast majority of our members and reflects the traditions of the society's mutual past.

A spokeswoman said the society was sorry that what it believed was a minority of members were disappointed.

More than 70 per cent of its investors have less than £2,000 in their accounts and the society believes they will be "very happy" with the choice of scheme.

Asked if possible action by customers posed any threat, she added: "We don't believe so at the moment."



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# The 'R' word will return to haunt next President



**Hamish  
McRae**  
in Chicago

One is struck by the contrast between the strength and quality of big corporations and the financial fragility of many families

io the last two months, the housing market has slipped, with a fall in new home sales, exports, while growing, have been curbed by the rise in the dollar since the spring; other leading indicators of the economy, which US economic-watchers examine, like the Chicago Purchasing Manager's Index, have been falling in recent months, suggesting less buoyant expectations within manufacturing industry.

Other causes for unease include the level of share prices (of course), and the level of consumer debt at around 80 per cent of income. Consumers make mistakes, for the level of default on this debt is at record levels, too.

At any rate, the first half of

the new presidency will be dominated by the "R" word:

concern about the cost reession. The economic forecasters are sketching two broad out-

looks. One is that next year or 18 months will see a period of slow growth, say 2 per cent.

There has been evidence that

the economy has been slowing

This first group of economy-watchers takes the view that these figures show a sufficient slowing of the economy for there to be no need to increase interest rates by more than a token amount in the next few months. Result: a soft landing.

The second group looks at the same numbers but sees a different outcome. They think that wage inflation will become an increasing concern. The year-on-year rise in hourly earnings may reach 4 per cent, which would cause alarm in the Federal Reserve. They think that strong wage growth will underpin consumption and that this will start to show through in greater inflation. Eventually, they expect that the Fed will be forced to tighten policy, and some argue that a small, early dip into recession next year will be safer for the long-term health of the economy than delay in increasing interest rates – and perhaps a deeper recession in 1998/1999.

It would be nice at this stage

to give a judgement as to the probability of recession next year – whether the optimists or the pessimists are right. But no

body can know. Further peering into the mass of economic data that the US economy generates makes things worse.

For the volume of short-term information make it impossible to see the longer-term trend.

But two things would strike the European visitor to the US at this time. One is the contrast between the quality and financial position of large US corporations, and the financial fragility of the position of many US families. The other is the assumption of continued financial stability: that the low-interest, low-inflation, steady growth world will continue.

The contrast shows in the difference between company indebtedness, half its level relative to profits compared with 10 years ago, and personal indebtedness, 50 per cent higher than it was then and at an all-time peak. While companies have cleaned up their balance

sheets, people have not. So there is a very robust company sector able to cope with tough times, but individuals or families who run their affairs in a much less prudent manner. Individuals say that they are concerned about insecurity which is questioned in polls, but act as though they are not.

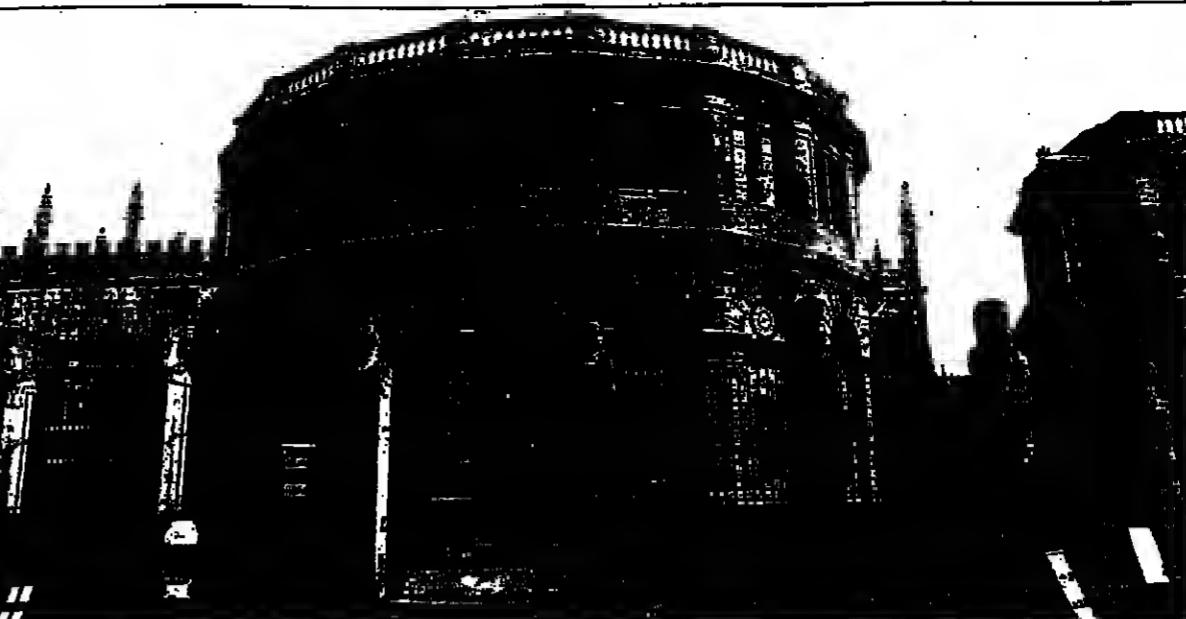
The worry, therefore, is that if there is some unexpected shock such as a rise in short-term interest rates or a sharp fall on Wall Street, companies will be fine, but people won't. A rise in short-term rates in the States would not hit the housing market as it would in the UK because mortgages are not so closely linked to short-term interest rates. But consumer borrowing is linked and so a rise would have an enormous impact on that. Further, a large proportion of personal assets are in mutual fund accounts, which people use as bank accounts. Imagine having most spare cash held not in a building society or bank, but in a unit trust.

The other odd feature is the assumption of stability. Britons know the pound can plunge and that interest rates can go up as well as down.

In the US, perhaps particularly in the Mid-west, it is different. The economy carries on regardless of what happens in Washington.

The continued competence of the Fed is taken as read. Maybe this is a function of the central bank having a fair measure of independence, or the widespread assumption that the result of today's election will be the continued balanced ticket – a Democrat president and a Republican congress.

But it may also be that Americans have forgotten about economic shocks. The last four years have seen uninterrupted, steady growth with very little signs of inflation. This election may not mark the end of this slow boom, but it would be absolutely astounding were there to be another four years like the last.



Great debate: The Sheldonian Theatre, where the dons will gather to discuss Wafic Said's gift

## Dons up in arms over new school

### PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Spare a thought for Wafic Said, the Saudi businessman who has donated £20m to Oxford University to found the Said Business School.

A meeting of the university's dons in the Sheldonian Theatre today will debate the proposed location of the new school. Mr Said was involved in the £20bn Al-Yamamah arms deal with Saudi Arabia, but never received compensation or

accorded a July.

"I would have thought that when establishing a business school, ethics are very important. There was an element of double dealing in the way the plan was announced, and damage to the environment here. I think this is distinctly off-side."

Will the dons humiliate Mr Said as they did Margaret Thatcher when they overruled her honorary degree in the late 1980s?

Nice to see the founder of the *Independent's* business section, Baroness Hogg, has gotcheted up yet another job, this time non-executive director of GKN.

No doubt she will bring her customary efficiency to the new post. Having completed a five-year stint as head of the Downing Street Policy Unit in 1995, she is due to succeed John Kay as chairman of London Economics. She is a non-exec at the National Provident Institution and the

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, a body which will go live in April 1997, designed to protect the interests of 10 million people in the UK's 200,000 occupational pensions schemes.

Caroline Johnson, chief executive of Opra, has appointed a number of people. Joe Robertson, previously a caseworker director for the Pensions Ombudsman, becomes regulatory director. He is joined by Roger Hills, formerly a detective chief superintendent. Opra says he "will be in charge of intelligence and heavy investigations". Cries. You have been warned.

Andrew Neil, former editor of the *Sunday Times*, has been commissioned to write a 14,000-word article on his ex-employer, Rupert Murdoch, for the American magazine *Vanity Fair*. The fee? \$50,000.

But Mr Neil has already gone ooo about Mr Murdoch in his autobiography, *Full Disclosure*, which has not been published in the US. It shouldn't take too long to reproduce all the Murdoch bits for the mag. Not a bad for a couple of hours' work.

**John Willcock**

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accord" in July.

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## sport

# Difficult art makes bigger splash

'Synchro' is no longer the laughing stock of sport, says Mike Rowbottom

The code of behaviour at Wigan's international pool was violated at the weekend. While those in the water refrained as requested from running, petting, bombing, shoving, pushing, ducking, spitting and smoking – at least as far as one could judge – the ban on acrobatics was flagrantly disregarded.

With more athletic endeavour than ever before, 101 competitors in what was the 22nd National Synchronised Swimming Championships went through their unlikely motions, watched by a small but knowledgeable audience.

It is 12 years since the sport bobbed into the public consciousness at the 1984 Olympics. Its peculiar combination of strenuous activity and a fixed grin quickly established it as a target for ridicule. Carolyn Wilson, one of the two British competitors in Los Angeles, remembers very clearly the reaction in media circles at the time.

"We got some quite negative publicity from people like Des Lynam," she recalled. "That is the risk run by all sports with an artistic element. People have an opinion about it."

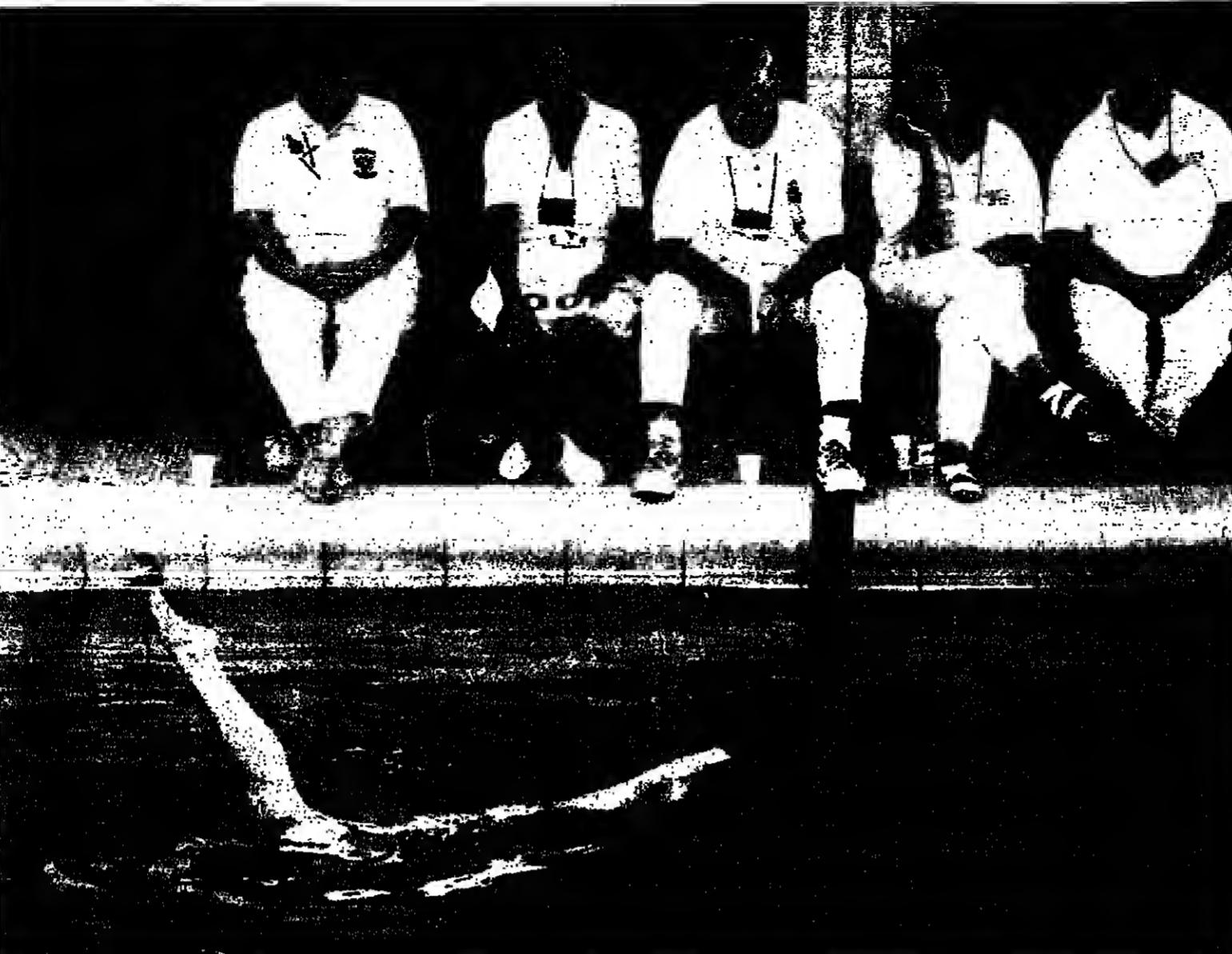
"We are used to seeing sport in terms of men growling about on the rugby field, but sport shouldn't just be about sweating and grimacing. It can also be about people enjoying themselves."

Sweating and grimacing will never have a place in the world of synchro, but those who run the sport have been smart enough to realise sequins and smiles is also a losing combination in the long term.

In an effort to counteract the sport's glamorous excesses and absurdities, the emphasis has been shifted towards technical expertise, which now carries 60 per cent of marks in competition, leaving artistic impression as the lesser element.

The sport as a whole now reacts to sequins like Dracula to a crucifix. Costumes must be of a minimum size after the embarrassments of the late Eighties. And as for the smiling, let Andrea Holland, a former European champion who coached Britain's 1992 Olympic team, explain:

"All that started because this



The judges watch a competitor go through her paces at the National Synchronised Swimming Championships in Wigan. Photograph: Robert Hallam

is a sport that you have to try and make look easy, so people would smile to impress the judges. Nowadays, however, judges are better informed and know what technical aspects to look for.

"And if the routine is set to serious music, then the expressions have to reflect that. We don't want smiling all the time."

The sport has also acted to discourage flashy displays of breath-holding, another time-honoured tactic to impress the judges. Such tactics were leading to instances of girls blacking out – on one occasion, in Sweden, a competitor died after hyper-oxygenating.

In tandem with these changes,

there has been an increasing awareness of the need for proper endurance training. Here is a typical day at training camp for Britain's elite performers, as described by Ann Webb, one of the British coaches:

"Three-mile run before breakfast. Theo 200 stand-ups on chairs to warm up. Then three hours working in the pool. Lunch. Three more hours swimming. Theo a one and a half hour walk-through [of the movements]."

One of those regularly putting in that kind of training session is Adele Carlsen, a 20-year-old member of the Farnborough-based Rushmore Royals, who retained their team title at the weekend and

recently featured on the television show *How Do They Do That?*

The knee-jerk reaction to her sport which she often encounters is something which clearly annoys her.

"When I have been training for nine hours in a freezing cold pool, pushing my body to the limits, and someone comes up to me and says what I do is stupid, that it's just a matter of smiling, sticking my legs in the air and splashing around in the water, then it does make me angry," she said.

The routine which Carlsen and her colleagues went through – a celebration of the Atlanta Games, with elements representing running, javelin

throwing and high jumping – was faintly ironic, given that Britain missed out on qualifying for the team competition, which is now the sole Olympic event, by one place.

For a sport which, in terms of public profile, sits beneath the surface between Olympics, such a failure can be costly. Carlsen, for instance, had to be funded directly by the Amateur Swimming Association this year after her Sports Aid Foundation grant was discontinued. "When we failed to reach the Olympics, they didn't want to know," she said.

"I don't think the Government in this country takes sport that seriously," she added. "They think that we are still in

the 1930's, and that Britain can just turn up and win off an hour a day's training. But so much has changed in this sport in the last 10 years. To do it properly, you have to be full-time."

It is a familiar situation, replicated in almost any sport you care to name in this country. But the continuing international popularity of synchronised swimming – it has been the first sport to sell out at each of the last three Olympics – is likely to provide the necessary stimulus to the domestic scene, if only every four years.

In the meantime, the 23rd National Synchronised Swimming Championships are in need of a sponsor... "They think that we are still in the 1930's, and that Britain can just turn up and win off an hour a day's training. But so much has changed in this sport in the last 10 years. To do it properly, you have to be full-time."

The game was level 2-2 at the end of the third period. Nottingham dominated in overtime but on Cardiff's first real attack, with just a minute left, Ivan Matulic scored the winner.

The following day, against Newcastle, Cardiff were again taken to overtime. This time Ian Cooper scored the winner.

Newcastle's other game, against Sheffield, also went to sudden-death. Newcastle pulled their netminder in the third period and came back from 2-0 down. Neither team could score during overtime and the game finished a tie.

## Blalock flies in to give Eagles a lift

### Basketball

RICHARD TAYLOR

The merry-go-round of Americans flying in and out of Bundesliga League clubs takes another turn tomorrow when Ralph Blalock goes straight from airport to basketball court, to make his debut for Newcastle Eagles in the 7-Up Trophy.

Eagle part of Sir John Hall's stable of sports clubs at Newcastle, have nosedived after winning the first four games of the season. Saturday's 102-70 National Cup win over First Division Ware Rebels ended a three-game losing streak.

Blalock, a 6ft 3in 22-year-old posted impressive statistics at Towson State University and led the team in scoring and three-pointers in his final year.

Blalock's arrival means Newcastle have released another American, Anthony Joseph, who has been snapped up by Crystal Palace, who tried to sign him at the start of the season.

### RACING RESULTS

#### NEWCASTLE

1.25. 1. SILENT GUEST (R Canally) 3-1; 2. The Bowlers (P. O'Brien) 6-4; 3. Dunc Dubs 7-1; 4. The Noddy (R McEwan) 9-0; Total: £3,10; £1,90; £1,10; Dual Forecast: £2,90; Computer Forecast: £7,52.

1.58. 2. BILLSBROOK (R Johnson) 4-1; 2. A. & C. Aces (P. O'Brien) 3. The Lads 5-4; 3. 6-5, 8-9, 9-12 (R Bowlers) Total: £4,20; £1,30; £1,30; DF: £1,430; CSF: £52,24; Non Runner: Strongbow.

2.25. 1. STAN'S YOUR MAN (R Canally) 7-1; 2. 2.000 (P. O'Brien) 6-4; 3. The Lads 5-4; 4-1; 5-6, 6-7, 7-8 (R Bowlers) Total: £4,20; £1,40; £1,10; DF: £4,10; CSF: £10,84; Total: £24,50.

2.50. 1. SILLY DAWN (P. O'Brien) 6-1; 2. 2.000 (P. O'Brien) 6-4; 3. The Lads 5-4; 7-8 (R Bowlers) Total: £4,20; £1,40; £1,10; DF: £4,10; CSF: £10,84; Total: £24,50.

2.75. 1. BLAZING DAWN (P. O'Brien) 6-1; 2. Thunderstruck 5-2; 3. Wreckers 9-4; 5. 5-6, 6-7, 7-8 (R Bowlers, Heyham) Total: £4,20; £1,40; £1,10; DF: £4,10; CSF: £10,84; Total: £24,50; Placemps: £417,80; Place: 8; £201,63; Place: 5; £191,96.

#### PLUMPTON

1.25. 1. BAKER & O'CONNELL 11-2; 2. Flying Colours 2-12; 3. Buses 8-1; Total: 6-4; for Beta Sedona (4th); 1/4, 12; 1/4 Egoism, Chorltonworn, Total: £9,10; £4,10; £2,00; DF: £14,90; CSF: £16,29; Total: £53,20; NFS: Cypress Avenue, Lady Potts.

#### HYPERION

1.25 Chickowicka 1.55 Amarcia 2.25 Club Caribbean 2.55 Coosa Fuer 3.25 Mine's An Ace 3.55 Fairies Farewell

GOING: Good to Firm.

■ Left-hand course. Run-in of 240 yards.

■ Course is west of chy on B4096. Boxes from stations at Warwick (1m) and Leamington (2m). ADMIRALSHIP: Club 412 (16 to 24-year-olds 50); Tallentire SH: Course 35; CAZ: PARADE 55.

**SS**

■ COURSE: 1.25m. Run-in 1.25m.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE WINNERS: Wise's Cobble (1.25) has been sent 100 miles by N Lampard from Kingsbridge, Devon.

■ 2.50. 1. NO SUBMISSION (A) (Duffield 16-1; Ave 1-2; The Diver 10-1; 3. Inhibition 16-1; 18 mns, 3-1; 2. Rapido-Lapu-Lapu, nk, 2; (D) Chapman, Total: £20,10; £4,20; £1,40; DF: £7,350; CSF: £1,10.

2.75. 1. UNCLE BEET (D Fort 5-2); 2. Downunder (P. O'Brien) 6-4; 3. The First 4-5; 4-6, 5-7, 6-8, 7-9, 8-10, 9-11 (R Bowlers) Total: £4,20; DF: £1,10; CSF: £10,80.

4.00. 2. PAWLEY FLYERS (R Dunwoody) 2-1; 2.000 (P. O'Brien) 6-4; 3. The First 4-5; 4-6, 5-7, 6-8, 7-9, 8-10, 9-11 (R Bowlers) Total: £4,20; DF: £1,10; CSF: £10,80.

4.25. 1. STAN'S YOUR MAN (R Canally) 7-1; 2. 2.000 (P. O'Brien) 6-4; 3. The First 4-5; 4-6, 5-7, 6-8, 7-9, 8-10, 9-11 (R Bowlers) Total: £4,20; DF: £1,10; CSF: £10,80.

4.50. 1. STAN'S CASINOS LAD (K Sheaf 14-1; 2. Shaggy Old 7-5; 3. Glary Waggoner 14-1; 4. The First 4-5; 5-6, 6-7, 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11; 11-12, 12-13, 13-14, 14-15, 15-16, 16-17, 17-18, 18-19, 19-20, 20-21, 21-22, 22-23, 23-24, 24-25, 25-26, 26-27, 27-28, 28-29, 29-30, 30-31, 31-32, 32-33, 33-34, 34-35, 35-36, 36-37, 37-38, 38-39, 39-40, 40-41, 41-42, 42-43, 43-44, 44-45, 45-46, 46-47, 47-48, 48-49, 49-50, 50-51, 51-52, 52-53, 53-54, 54-55, 55-56, 56-57, 57-58, 58-59, 59-60, 60-61, 61-62, 62-63, 63-64, 64-65, 65-66, 66-67, 67-68, 68-69, 69-70, 70-71, 71-72, 72-73, 73-74, 74-75, 75-76, 76-77, 77-78, 78-79, 79-80, 80-81, 81-82, 82-83, 83-84, 84-85, 85-86, 86-87, 87-88, 88-89, 89-90, 90-91, 91-92, 92-93, 93-94, 94-95, 95-96, 96-97, 97-98, 98-99, 99-100, 100-101, 101-102, 102-103, 103-104, 104-105, 105-106, 106-107, 107-108, 108-109, 109-110, 110-111, 111-112, 112-113, 113-114, 114-115, 115-116, 116-117, 117-118, 118-119, 119-120, 120-121, 121-122, 122-123, 123-124, 124-125, 125-126, 126-127, 127-128, 128-129, 129-130, 130-131, 131-132, 132-133, 133-134, 134-135, 135-136, 136-137, 137-138, 138-139, 139-140, 140-141, 141-142, 142-143, 143-144, 144-145, 145-146, 146-147, 147-148, 148-149, 149-150, 150-151, 151-152, 152-153, 153-154, 154-155, 155-156, 156-157, 157-158, 158-159, 159-160, 160-161, 161-162, 162-163, 163-164, 164-165, 165-166, 166-167, 167-168, 168-169, 169-170, 170-171, 171-172, 172-173, 173-174, 174-175, 175-176, 176-177, 177-178, 178-179, 179-180, 180-181, 181-182, 182-183, 183-184, 184-185, 185-186, 186-187, 187-188, 188-189, 189-190, 190-191, 191-192, 192-193, 193-194, 194-195, 195-196, 196-197, 197-198, 198-199, 199-200, 200-201, 201-202, 202-203, 203-204, 204-205, 205-206, 206-207, 207-208, 208-209, 209-210, 210-211, 211-212, 212-213, 213-214, 214-215, 215-216, 216-217, 217-218, 218-219, 219-220, 220-221, 221-222, 222-223, 223-224, 224-225, 225-226, 226-227, 227-228, 228-229, 229-230, 230-231, 231-232, 232-233, 233-234, 234-235, 235-236, 236-237, 237-238, 238-239, 239-240, 240-241, 241-242, 242-243, 243-244, 244-245, 245-246, 246-247, 247-248, 248-249, 249-250, 250-251, 251-252, 252-253, 253-254, 254-255, 255-256, 256-257, 257-258, 258-259, 259-260, 260-261, 261-262, 262-263, 263-264, 264-265, 265-266, 266-267, 267-268, 268-269, 269-270, 270-271, 271-272, 272-273, 273-274, 274-275, 275-276, 276-277, 277-278, 278-279, 279-280, 280-281, 281-282, 282-283, 283-284, 284-285, 285-286, 286-287, 287-288, 288-289, 289-290, 290-291, 291-292, 292-293, 293-294, 294-295, 295-296, 296-297, 297-298, 298-299, 299-300, 300-301, 301-302, 302-303, 303-304, 304-305, 305-306, 306-307, 307-308, 308-309, 309-310,

criminals  
uns

# Glover sets Fox on November run

**Racing**

RICHARD EDMONDSON

By the time the clocks go back Jeremy Glover's horses are usually going forward, and quickly. The Nottinghamshire trainer has earned a reputation as a man who comes swooping into play as the nights draw in, a distinction that is exemplified by four wins in the Cambridgeshire at leaf-strewn Newmarket.

For a person of his limited

jockeying career of 18 years he has held a Jockey Club starter in the first leg of the Autumn Double

is quite astounding.

The former professional

jockey of 18 years has held a

license for only 12 seasons (to

become a Jockey Club starter in

1978 was rejected), yet his name

is etched alongside the

titles of the two

## sport

# He does not want to clutter up the England squad with players who are superior to those he has nurtured over the years

One of the most striking aspects of what is already a remarkable season is the impact which rugby league players have made. Sometimes they are players who have re-transferred their allegiance, such as Scott Quinnell of Richmond (as he hopes will turn out to be the case: permanently) Véiga Tuigamala of Wasps. Sometimes they are performers who had never played union regularly before the season and will shortly return to league, such as Gary Connolly of Harlequins. They have always transformed their club's play for the better.

There has been a curious reluctance to acknowledge this truth. After the first Wigan-Bath match in the summer, followers of union said that

of course Wigan beat Bath at league. It was only to be expected. But Bath would beat Wigan at union, although maybe not so comprehensively.

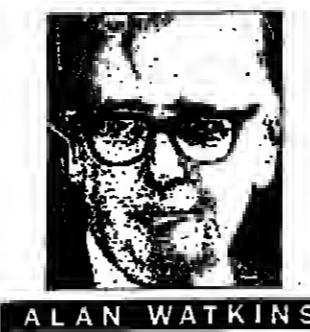
Wigan's triumph in the Middlesex Sevens caused some people to revise their forecast, and to admit that perhaps Wigan might beat Bath after all at Twickenham. Superficially, however, things turned out as had been expected originally, with Bath winning and Wigan showing an unexpected ineptitude in the set-pieces, particularly the scrums.

But the superiority of the Wigan players individually, the hacks at any rate, became evident in the second half and even more clear in the last quarter. The league players were

stronger, faster, fitter and, above all, more creative. Jason Robinson could sidestep, swerve or jink round not just one opponent but several – an art some of us thought had gone with Gerald Davies.

This season, Robinson has been delighting the crowds at Bath, playing first on the wing and, more recently, at full-back. So has the other former Wigan player Henry Paul at centre. Both he and his brother, Robbie of Harlequins, are ineligible to play for England because they are New Zealanders. The same goes for Tuigamala.

But of eligible former league players, Jack Rowell, the England coach, has recalled only Jim Fallon of Richmond to the national squad.



ALAN WATKINS

In my opinion, Jon Bentley of Newcastle, formerly of Halifax RL and before that of Sale (where, in 1988, he won three England caps), is at least as good a wing. Oo present form. Robinson, who is much

younger, is the clear superior of both. So far, Martin Offiah of Bedford has not set the fields alight and has been troubled by a mysterious toe injury. Nevertheless, I have little doubt about the composition of the strongest English three-quarter line: Robinson, Connolly, Will Carling and Offiah.

Offiah has already said he is free to play for England. There may be doubts about how free Robinson is. Certainly Connolly is due to go back north in the new year. But if Wigan will release him, there is no legal reason why he should not play for England in the Five Nations. Why does not Rowell try to exercise his persuasive skills, for which he is apparently well known?

The answer, I am afraid, is that he does not want to. He does not want to clutter up his precious squad with players who are manifestly superior to those he has nurtured over the years. I agree – the advent of Robinson, Connolly and Offiah would undoubtedly be hard on Jon Sleightholme, Jeremy Guscott, Phil de Glanville, Tony Underwood and Adedayo Adebayo. But life is full of such hardships. They are not on that account injustices.

Kevin Bowning of Wales does not have this luxury of talent at his disposal. He should welcome the former league players. Yet he also is approaching them with the apprehension of an old man confronted by a nubile bride. So far, only Scott

Gibbs of Swansea has been fully readmitted to the fold, with David Young of Cardiff and Richard Webster of Bath hovering on the fringes.

It is evident that Wales' best centre combination is Gibbs with Allan Bateman, who is playing brilliantly for Richmond, outside him, Scott Quinnell of the same club will presumably be back in No 3 once his payment problems have been settled.

The best Welsh back five would then be: Gareth Llewellyn (Harlequins), Craig Quinnell (Richmond), Paul Moriarty (Swansea), Scott Quinnell (Richmond), Richard Webster (Bath). Bowning, the victim of Welsh parochialism as much as of anti-league prejudice, is even less likely than Rowell to do the right thing.

## Rowell and the men who would be king

**Chris Hewett** on the problems facing the England coach, who names his new captain today

Jack Rowell is on his Jack Jones, so to speak. Two and a half years after inheriting a solid, functional and generally successful national side from his predecessor, Geoff Cooke, the England coach now finds himself in the uncomfortable position of having to back his own judgement on the most exposed selection issue of them all: the captaincy.

What is more, he must make some shrewd decisions on the shape of his side for the Five Nations' Championship while keeping one eye on the 1999 World Cup. Rowell went to the 1995 tournament in South Africa with Cooke's legacy almost completely intact and while he moved gingerly into reshape and remodel mode last season, he still had to pull an old nag by the name of Dean Richards out of the knackers' yard to save the day at Murrayfield. When he looks down from the high wire this time, that particular safety net will be conspicuous by its absence.

The new leader is due to be named at Twickenham today and the job description has changed almost completely since Cooke appointed Will Carling in 1988. Indeed, Carling transformed it himself through his curious mix of undeniable glamour, naked ambition and almost laughable naivete. You do not holl-holl with royalty and make public jokes about the flatulent habits of faintly ridiculous but still influential people and then hope that the front pages will leave you alone.

Assuming that Rowell has decided against appointing a stop-gap captain – and 1996 is far enough away to invalidate the need for one – he must not only choose a partner with whom he feels he can work and who can handle the post-Carling pressures but one capable of bridging the gap between the selectors and the squad. That gap was allowed to grow dangerously wide at times last season as Carling distanced himself from his coach, and now that Rowell is in a position to name his own man, he had better get it right.

Lawrence Dallaglio has been the front-runner since Carling stepped down after victory over the Irish last March. Confident, approachable and highly capable in all three back-row positions, he forged his leadership skills on the hoof by stabilising a Wasps side that was on



**Lawrence Dallaglio**

Age: 24; Club: Wasps; Caps: 6.

Red-hot favourite for the succession since Will Carling bowed out last spring. Dallaglio is the youngest of the obvious contenders but his versatility as a player, combined with a measured approach off the field, persuaded Jack Rowell to describe him as the "English François Pienaar". The best long-term option.

**Jason Leonard**

Age: 28; Club: Harlequins; Caps: 49.

Hugely popular prop forward who, like Dallaglio, gives the England selectors elbow room through an ability to play in more than one position. Leonard has made more international appearances than all his main rivals put together and his success in bonding a disparate Quins side this season makes him a decent outside threat.

**Phil de Glanville**

Age: 28; Club: Bath; Caps: 16.

Obviously captaincy material from the day he joined Bath from college in 1990, de Glanville fits precisely into the traditional mould of an England skipper. He has a fair harder edge than many imagine, but the resurgent form of both Carling and his own club-mate, Jeremy Guscott, leaves him vulnerable on the selection front.

**Tim Rodber**

Age: 27; Club: Northampton; Caps: 25.

There was a time when Rodber's army background and fierce patriotic fervour persuaded many to stamp him with the Future England Captain label. Then came his sending off in Port Elizabeth in 1994 – he was only the second man to be dismissed while wearing the national jersey – and he is still making up the lost ground.

the point of collapse in the aftermath of Rob Andrew's acrimonious departure for Newcastle.

In truth, Dallaglio has not enjoyed the best of months. After a bright enough start to the campaign he picked and lost arguments with referees during the defeats by Gloucester and Cardiff and there found himself on the wrong end of an embarrassing pasting in Limerick as Munster effectively ended Wasps' interest in the European Cup.

Since then, though, the Londoners have worked themselves back up to speed and if Rowell

really did make up his mind on the captaincy back in September, as he insists, then England may well have a half-Italian skipper by this afternoon.

The blindingly obvious does not always appeal to a man of Rowell's paradoxical character, however, hence the presence of one or two dark horses in the stalls. The word on the street alternated between Phil de Glanville, the Bath captain, and Tim Rodber, his counterpart at Northampton, before coming up with a wholly new suggestion in the shape of Jason Leonard, the most popular forward in the current

squad as well as the most experienced.

Once Rowell has gone public on his choice, he then has to find himself a side. If that sounds harsh in the light of England's Five Nations victory last season, a glance at the all-important spine of the team confirms the sentiment. All five central positions are up for grabs, from full-back through the half-backs and hooker to No 8, and if anyone tells Big Jack that competition for places is what coaches are supposed to yearn for, he might well get a thick ear.

While he steers well clear of

entering into a public debate on the matter, Rowell is deeply concerned about a number of key positions outside the scrum.

Tim Stimpson of Newcastle is within touching distance of a debut at full-back against Italy on 23 November, but, much to the England hierarchy's disgust, his goal-kicking opportunities at club level have been seriously restricted by Andrew. That makes it awkward for Rowell to select the non-kicking Mike Catt at stand-off, even though his running skills would be in perfect harmony with a dynamic three-quarter line almost soaked in pace.

England are better placed on the matter, especially now that the supremely arrogant Austin Healey is finding his feet at Leicester and proving himself a worthy contender alongside Kyran Bracken, Andy Goarsall and the incumbent, Matt Dawson. But there is a decision to be made at hooker,

where Mark Regan is struggling both with injury and with the brilliant Gloucester prospect Phil Greening. And that No 8? Nightmare. Rodber can draw on the experience of 25 caps but has shown nothing to suggest that he is playing better than Chris Sheasby, Tony Dirose or

Steve Ojomoh, whose European Cup performance against Dax 10 days ago was nothing short of world class. All this and Ben Clarke too.

Elsewhere, the options are more straightforward. Jon Sleightholme and Adedayo Adebayo are expected to form a Bath partnership on the wings with Tony Underwood applying pressure on both. Carling should resume his midfield partnership with Jeremy Guscott; Graham Rowntree and Leonard can expect to stay in the front row despite the best efforts of Leicester's Darren Garforth, and if Rowell de-

cides that Garath Archer's indiscretions have taken him beyond the pale, Simon Shaw of Bristol will probably partner Martin Johnson at lock.

But whereas John Hart can reel off his New Zealand spine with his eyes shut – Cullen, Mehrtens, Marshall, Fitzpatrick, Brooke, end of story – Rowell must perm five from the best part of 20 in an effort to give England a new backbone. Until he settles on that quintet, his side will continue to look seriously vulnerable both in the European theatre and, more importantly, on the world stage.

## Andrew's threat ensures postponement

Rob Andrew was not exactly renowned for his gamblers' instinct during the decade he spent in the England team, but he has acquired a mean line in brinkmanship since falling under the influence of Sir John Hall at Newcastle, writes Chris Hewett. Yesterday his latest venture into the risk business paid healthy dividends when his club's fixture with Rotherham was postponed from this weekend until March.

Andrew had threatened to withdraw six of his players from international and representative duty this weekend after Rotherham insisted that the League

Two match between the two sides should go ahead as planned on Saturday.

With two Newcastle players, Gary Armstrong and Doddie Weir, in the Scotland squad for the Test with Australia, two more in the A squad who face the Junior Springboks on Friday, and another couple required for an Irish session in advance of the match with Western Samoa next Tuesday, Andrew forced the situation by pulling rank.

That led to some hurried discussions at national level and, according to a spokesman for the English professional clubs or-

ganisation (Epruc), the debate went all the way to the International Board, who sanctioned a fixture deferral. It now seems likely that Newcastle's home game with Richmond, the other favourites for promotion to League One, will be shifted from its current 18 January date because players from both sides are likely to be involved in the opening round of the Five Nations' Championship.

Meanwhile, Epruc officials will meet tomorrow to discuss setting up a fund for members most at risk from the bank manager. The political stand-off

between Epruc and the Rugby Football Union has delayed the signing of a multi-million pound broadcasting deal with BSkyB and has left several of the more vulnerable clubs staring into a financial black hole. Representatives from the richer outifts – Newcastle, Harlequins, Bath and Richmond among them – are likely to be asked to bail out the smaller clubs with loans of up to £200,000.

Rory Jenkins, the uncapped Harlequins flanker, has been called into the England squad for tomorrow's training session at Bishop's Stortford.

Andy Reed, the Scotland and Lions lock, yesterday became the latest casualty of the club versus country row. The Wasps forward was originally named in the squad for the Scotland A match against South Africa A at Hawick on Friday night but is needed for his club's Anglo-Welsh League game at Pontypridd tomorrow and was unable to attend the training sessions.

Doug Morgan, the Scotland A team manager, announcing a squad of 21 for Friday's match, said: "We picked Reed initially in our squad but Wasps re-

quired him for their match on Wednesday night. I felt that this was not the ideal preparation for a Scotland A game. Proper preparation is vital and that means players attending squad sessions."

George Graham will miss the Scotland A game through injury. The former rugby league forward was selected to play against Australia last Wednesday but had to withdraw because of a calf injury.

The Scotland A squad shows several changes to the 21 on duty at Galashiels last Wednesday for the Australians' open-

ing tour match in Scotland. The significant newcomer among the backs is the wing James Craig, while also in the squad is Watsonians full-back Derrick Lee.

In the forwards, there is a promotion for locks Stuart Grimes and Scott Aitken, who have performed well in Heineken European Cup matches this season, and there is a recall for the capped prop John Manson, who was out of action earlier this season through injury.

Injury-hit Australia will field a replacement Tim Gavin

and their traioneer in the side to play the Scottish Districts Select XV at McDiarmid Park in Perth today.

Gavin, the Wallaby back-row player, has been summoned following injuries to both No 8 Mike Brial and Mark Connors.

But Gavin, normally a No 8, will pack down in the second row alongside John Welborn or Warwick Waugh. Dirk Williams, the tourists' 35-year-old trainer, has been drafted in to play at blind-side flanker.

Scotland A squad, Scotland Districts team, Digest, page 25

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# Wenger set to move for £1m Mahon

## Football

ALAN NIXON

Arsenal are ready to make the first move for Tramore's £1m-rated midfield player, Alan Mahon.

Arsène Wenger, the Gunners manager, has been told by his spies to snap up the 18-year-old Republic of Ireland prospect who has played just five first team games.

Wenger's new Northern scout, Don Mackay, has seen Mahon twice in a week and is a big fan of the elusive youngster who Tramore signed under the noses of bigger rivals.

Mahon is also being chased by Blackburn, Coventry and Sunderland, who watched him turn on the style at the weekend. But Arsenal are favourites in the chase for the Dubliner with Wenger expected to watch Mahon on international duty at the weekend.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has lined up another Norwegian, Eric Nevland, to follow in the footsteps of Ole Gunnar Solskjær.

Ferguson is set to swoop for the 18-year-old, who scored a stunning hat-trick in a secret trial for his A team at Preston on Saturday.

Nevland is rated the best prospect in his home country where he has just made the first team breakthrough at Viking

Stavanger and is also in the national youth squad.

The powerful forward has impressed United officials during a week-long trial at Old Trafford and the clubs could put together a £1m package deal for him.

The Oldham manager, Graeme Sharp, hopes to sign the Swedish winger Tommy Hansen from Trelleborg today.

Hansen is due to arrive at Boundary Park after helping his club avoid relegation at the weekend with a two-goal display in the final game of the Swedish season.

The left-sided player is keen to come to England where he memorably helped his club top-tie Blackburn Rovers in Europe two seasons ago.

Oldham can sign Hansen for nothing at the end of his contract and he would boost their wafer-thin squad without breaking the bank.

Stoke yesterday completed the temporary signing of the Napoli defender Mirko Tuccio, who last month marked George Weah in a match against Milan. On "indefinite loan" he is set to play in tomorrow's reserve match at Bolton.

Meanwhile, Port Vale borrowed Jan Jansson, a midfielder with seven caps for Sweden, from SK Norrköping and may use him in tonight's Coca-Cola Cup replay at Oxford if they receive international clearance in time.

## TODAY'S NUMBER

0

The number of professional players in the Liechtenstein squad for the World Cup qualifier against Macedonia on Saturday. The nation's only professional, Basile's Mario Frick, is missing after his second yellow card in the 2-1 defeat by Lithuania last month.

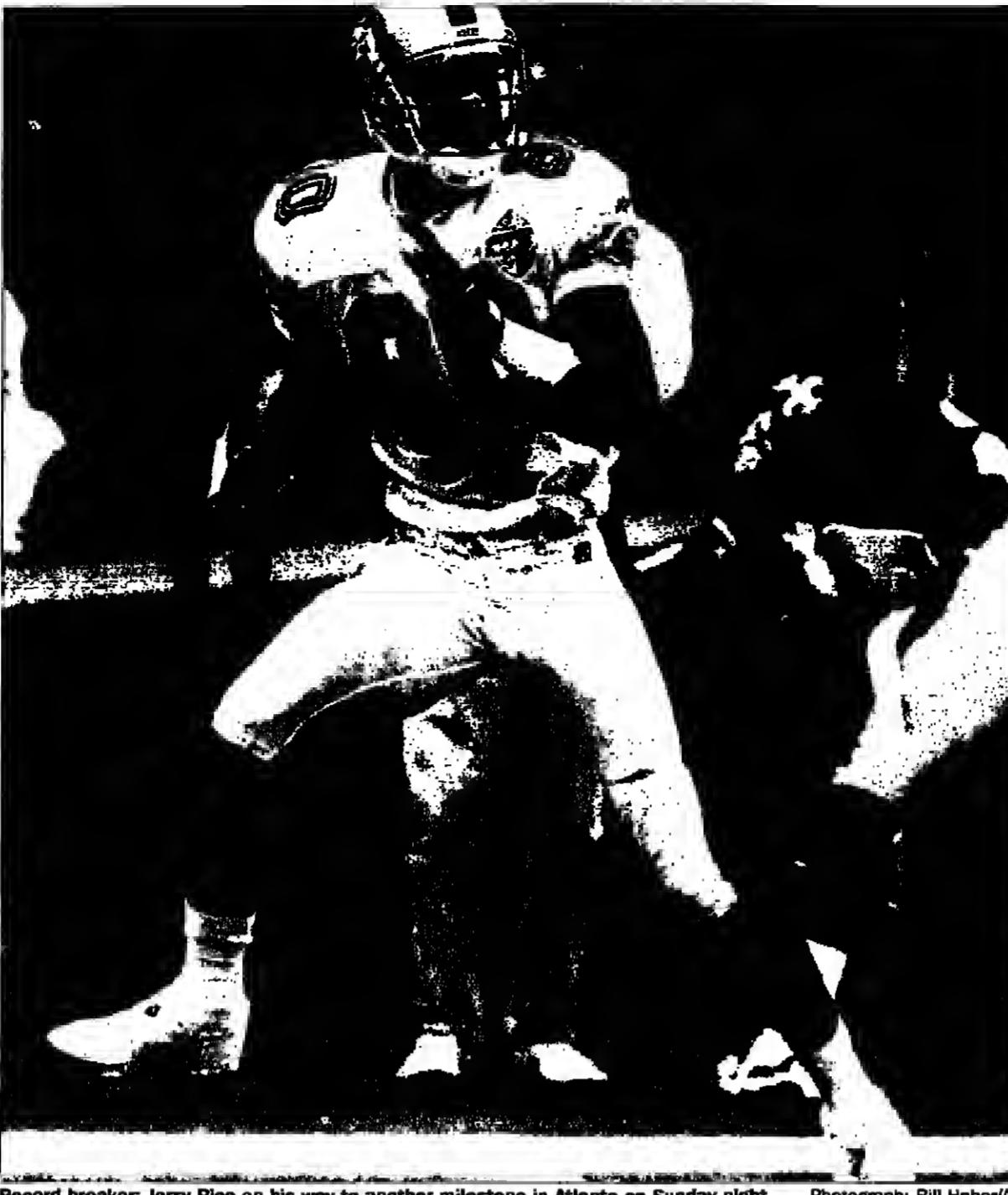
## BOA backs Cotswolds' academy bid

### Sports politics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

The British Olympic Association announced yesterday that it wants the National Academy of Sport to be located at the former US Air Force base in Upper Heyford.

Craig Reedie, the BOA chairman, pledged annual funding of £1m for the academy if it is built



Record breaker: Jerry Rice on his way to another milestone in Atlanta on Sunday night

Photograph: Bill Haber/AP

in the Cotswolds, which his organisation has chosen ahead of 24 other bidders including Birmingham, Liverpool and London.

The Prime Minister has already promised up to £100m of Lottery money for an academy of sport and the Heyford bid has an additional £75m in private-sector backing, largely from developer.

Reedie said it could ensure that every sportsman and

sportswoman who has the capacity to excel at international level will enjoy the highest standards of coaching, sports medicine and sports science.

Those are the areas which the BOA has developed over the last 10 years, and it is anxious to retain its influence in the new scheme of things. "We are an independent, non-Governmental body, and we have been asked to bid just like anyone

else," a BOA spokesperson said. "We have built up an expertise over the last decade and we don't want to lose it to someone who may feel they can do better. In an ideal world, we would like to work with the Upper Heyford scheme."

A spokesman for Birmingham expressed disappointment at the BOA's position. "For such a judgement to have validity, it should be made after looking at

### Reames banned after drug test

#### Cycling

Jill Reames, of Yorkshire, was yesterday banned for six months and stripped of her silver medal in the women's national 10-mile time-trial championship following a positive drug test. A sample given by Reames after the championship was found to contain ephedrine.

Philip Heaton, secretary of the Road Time-Trial Council, said in a statement: "The evidence presented indicates that this was taken unknowingly in the form of a herbal dietary supplement advised to produce weight loss."

Reames, a member of the waledale club, is not expected to appeal against her suspension.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### Football

#### EURO CUP THIRD ROUND REPLAY

Port Vale v Port Vale 17.45

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

##### SECOND DIVISION

Cardiff v Northcote

Wrexham v Wrexham

Cheltenham v Cheltenham

Leeds United v Leeds United

Sheffield Wednesday v Sheffield Wednesday

Coventry City v Coventry City

Nottingham Forest v Nottingham Forest

Southampton v Southampton

Derby County v Derby County

Blackburn Rovers v Blackburn Rovers

Watford v Watford

### Artificial pitch a boost to depleted Norton

#### Hockey

Norton have made light of the departure of four of last year's squad, including their playcoach and former Great Britain international Peter Boxall, to head the North Premier Division with maximum points after their 4-2 win at Harrogate at the weekend, writes Bill Cowhill.

Their captain, Richard Finney, attributes their success to having their own artificial pitch.

"Training is now almost unlimited," Finney, the division's joint-top scorer, also feels the club has got to grips with the no offside rule, due in a large part to the Adams East League.

Ipswich's Andy Cook went one better, scoring five in their 8-0 rout of Sudbury to stay in second place.

Lee Treano sank a 35 foot putt for a birdie on the first hole of a low-eve play-off - the biggest in Senior PGA Tour history - to win the Emerald Coast Classic in Florida.

It has been a great year for the middle-distance putter. Samir Manchari has won the mixed Volvo Cup in their

four-shot final at the Royal Lytham & St Annes Open.

David Toms has won the US Open.

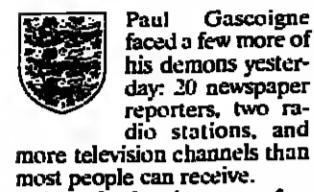
Lee Trevino has won the US Open.

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INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: Troubled England midfielder reveals 'the rage inside' that has driven him to seek counselling

# Gascoigne enters the confessional

GLENN MOORE  
Football Correspondent



Paul Gascoigne faced a few more of his demons yesterday: 20 newspaper reporters, two radio stations, and more television channels than most people can receive.

A confessional press conference after England's first day of training for Saturday's World Cup tie in Georgia was another small step on Gascoigne's road to redemption.

It followed a hockeys move at the weekend, when Gascoigne lost much of the residual sympathy there is for him by 'looking deep into his tortured soul' exclusively for the *Newspaper of the World*. There was, the newspaper announced, no fee – yet neither was there any mention of a contribution to charities supporting battered wives' refuges.

Representatives of the 40 million-plus Britons who do not read the Sunday tabloid were told yesterday that Gascoigne regretted 'the thing that happened with my wife'. He regretted 'it' five times, but he could not quite bring himself to use the words 'wife-beating'.

Glenn Hoddle could, stung by suggestions that by picking Gascoigne he had condoned the practice, he responded: 'This does not send a message out that I am backing wife-beaters, that I condone everything he has done. I am trying to ensure he never does it again.'

The England coach 'rode shotgun' alongside Gascoigne in Bishop Athey's wood-panelled Elizabethan Room yesterday. Portraits of Charles II and his Portuguese wife, Catherine of Braganza, stared down from the walls flanked by the phalanx of TV crews.

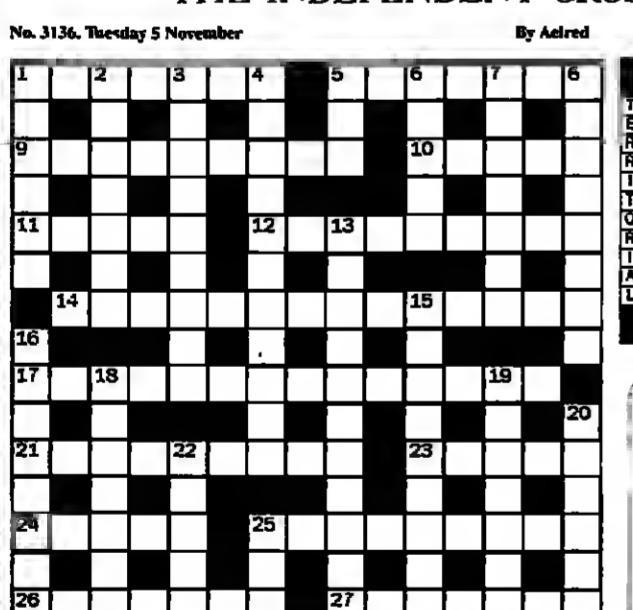
## United rule out Giggs

Ryan Giggs and Nathan Blake have been excluded from the Wales squad for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against the Netherlands in Eindhoven.

Giggs, who has missed Manchester United's last six games with a calf strain, has been replaced by Birmingham's Jason Bowen, while the Liverpool youngster Lee Jones steps in for Blake of Sheffield United.

Colin Hendry has been passed fit to play in Scotland's World Cup qualifier against Sweden at Ibrox on Sunday. The Blackburn defender safely negotiated his comeback game against Liverpool on Sunday, after being absent for a month following a groin operation.

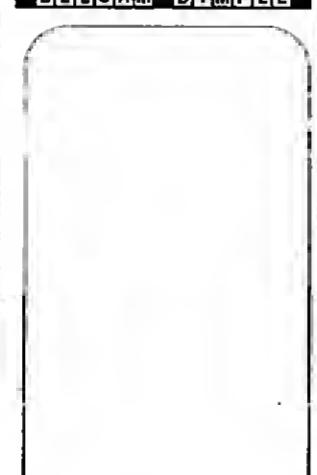
## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



By Adrew

Munday's Solution

FINISH CLAIMS	N R I H D I
TAKES ISSUE VALET	E W S T A A L E
HEBEL CONTENTION	H E B E L C O N T E N T I O N
BLINDING'S ANGLE	B L I N D I N G S A N G L E
ORDER STEEPISH	O R D E R S T E E P I S H
ROSES LA MORN	R O S E S L A M O R N
INCREDIBLE UPTON	I N C R E D I B L E U P T O N
LJIANA SMALLARMS	L J I A N A S M A L L A R M S
IT IS ORU I	I T I S O R U I
BRIDGM Dimple	B R I D G E M D I M P L E



- ACROSS  
1 In which one's cruel as a rule (7)  
5 About to crease and collapse (7)  
9 Complaint I had after house became not quite solid (9)  
10 Expenses of street in Greek island (5)  
11 Terrorism's not altogether a mistake (5)  
12 Cruel description of three-suited hand? (9)  
14 This Leander was idolised (4-10)  
17 Colleague's position when confronting anaesthetist? (8-6)  
21 Shade of sad Prince? (5,4)  
23 Stop beloved embracing bachelor (5)  
24 Fear keeping right? Exactly (5)  
25 Two crabs I found crawling in rubbish (4-1-4)
- DOWN  
1 One trying the Northern English chemical (6)  
2 Sorrow shown about code (7)  
3 No fair use could be described as wicked (9)  
4 One's accommodating to teenagers? (5,6)  
5 King Jeff Queen, say, being a boulder (3)  
6 Crude diamonds are not reduced (5)  
7 Decorate ceiling? It's to see what paper's like (5-2)  
8 Part of New York with no story? (4,4)  
9 Heavy and in want of energy? Could be (5)  
13 A distinctly overwhelming presence? (11)

26 Train? English can in Paris street? (7)  
27 Centre of spring festivities which are allowed by Euro-pean (7)

- 15 Urgency with which I'm going with TV etc. to Cyprus (9)  
16 Unit of power? (8)  
18 Confined to retain possible May disbursement (7)  
19 Ban English doctor on Jason's ship  
20 Place for mothers who don't care for babies? (6)  
22 Heavy and in want of energy? Could be (5)  
25 Insect showing strength shortly (3)

Diego Maradona, the former Argentinian captain, has admitted taking drugs on a regular basis and missing matches when his own private dope tests have been positive.

Maradona, 36, who says he has been taking cocaine since 1983, told the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* that recent allegations that his urine sample was switched with another player's after a routine post-match test on 11 August were unfounded.

THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN JUST STICKING YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND

Mike Rowbottom on the lament of the Switzerland Swiss



Paul Gascoigne makes his presence felt by David Platt (left) in training yesterday; while Ian Wright watches from a distance

Photograph: Peter Lawlor

## Italy call for Ravanelli and Di Matteo

Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Middlesbrough striker, and the Chelsea midfielder Roberto di Matteo are on their way to Sarajevo to play for Italy in a friendly against Bosnia tomorrow, while Atlanta on loan from Milan, last played for Italy in June 1993.

Ravanelli and Di Matteo, both regulars in Italy's World Cup side, were due to be rested for this trip – the first international at the Kosevo Stadium since the ceasefire in Sarajevo – but both have now had to abandon their week off.

Roberto Baggio, the former Italian international, was released from hospital yesterday after a scan showed no damage from a serious blow to the head received while playing for Milan against Atlanta on Sunday.

Manchester United's Jordi Cruyff has been dropped from the Dutch squad for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Wales in Eindhoven. He was substituted at half-time in the Netherlands' 3-1 win in Cardiff last month. Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp, who missed that match due to injury, is recalled; while Celtic's Pierre Van Hooijdonk, who scored twice as a late substitute at the Arms Park, is likely to start this time.

David Ginola's fine form for Newcastle has failed to find favour with Aimé Jacquet, the French coach, who has once again left Ginola out of his squad for Saturday's international friendly against Denmark in Copenhagen.

## Rovers widen search

ALAN NIXON

Blackburn Rovers are to seek permission to approach three managers – Howard Kendall, Bruce Rioch and Peter Reid – about the vacancy at Ewood Park.

The Rovers owner Jack Walker and the chairman Robert Coar, who want the new man in position by the home game against Chelsea on 16 November, have shortlisted the trio for the job that could carry a £500,000 a year salary after being turned down by Terry Venables.

Sheffield United, Queen's Park Rangers and Sunderland are to be asked to give the go-ahead for negotiations to begin. Kendall, who has managed Rovers before, has a release clause in his contract should a Premier League side show interest in his services. Rioch works without a contract at QPR where he is Stewart Houston's No 2, while Reid, the outsider who has turned Sunderland around on a shoestring budget, is expected to be attracted by the chance to work

with virtually unlimited funds.

A former Rovers, Kenny Dalglish, who led the club to the championship in 1995, has been asked by Rangers to help them become one of the foremost clubs in Europe. The former Celtic and Liverpool forward has been offered a high-profile position helping to lure the Continent's top players to Ibrox.

Rangers' manager, Walter Smith, who rebuffed suggestions that Dalglish's arrival could put his own position under threat, said: 'We had a meeting with Kenny Dalglish before the Ajax match last week. We have yet to arrange another meeting but that will be done shortly and hopefully we will be able to make an announcement.'

Should Dalglish take up the offer, he would not be scouting for young talent; he would be put in charge of tracking established players and submitting any choices to Smith.

Tottenham are reported to be on the verge of paying Rosenborg £1.75m for the 19-year-old Norwegian striker Stefan Iverius. Aston Villa, meanwhile, are confident that Savo Milosevic's £4.5m transfer to Portugal will go ahead after the forward completed his World Cup duty for Yugoslavia against the Czech Republic on Sunday.

Hardepool, second from bottom in the Third Division, have sacked their manager Keith Houcken. The player-coach Mick Tait has taken over as caretaker, but the club are to advertise the position.

'It's a sad day, but these things happen,' Houcken said. 'I needed the players to be men on the pitch, but I'm afraid all too often they didn't do it for me. The fans need to get behind the chairman. Unfortunately, I have not always had their support from the terraces.'

Ian Wallace, the former Scotland striker, will be hoping to win over Dumbarton's following after being appointed manager of the Scottish Second Division side. He takes over from Jim Fallon who resigned at the weekend after the 5-0 defeat at Livingston. Wallace, who commanded a £1m transfer fee when he moved from Coventry to Nottingham Forest, will have his work cut out. Dumbarton are the only Scottish League side yet to record a home victory.

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